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A Quality Communications Magazine

NEWS AMERICA

DC HAS given the green light to three new Supergirl projects. Celebrating her February debut on The New Batman and Superman Adventures TV series, the Peter David and Gary Frank ***Supergirl*** *issues #1-9 (1996), will be collected into a 244-page March-shipping $14.95 trade paperback, along with the series' prologue from* ***Showcase '96*** *#8. Also available in March will be a $6.95 Supergirl poster drawn by Joe DeVito [left].*

A new-look ***Supergirl Adventures*** *title, drawn in the animated style (below) by Bret Blevins and Terry Austin, and written by Evan Dorkin and Sarah Dyer is currently being solicited in* ***Previews****. But, in a sudden change of plans, the story will now appear in the 64-page $3.95* ***Superman Adventures*** *#21, due for a May release.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

COVER ***VAMPIRELLA/PAINKILLER JANE*** cover art by Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti for Harris Publishing's May one-shot. 100 copies of the Dynamic Forces variant to be won in our competition (see page 23)

NEWS ***NEWS AMERICA:*** WildStorm's *Resident Evil* tie-in... Randy Queen's **Darkchylde** #0... Spider-Man's new identities... Garth Ennis future projects... Vertigo **Tomahawk** exclusive... plus much more **3**

PREVIEW: A look at Wonder Woman in **Legends of the DC Universe** **17**

TRADING CARD NEWS: All the month's top non-sports card news **19**

NEWS EUROPE: National Lottery backs **Meanwhile**..... European editions for Lady Death... plus *World News* including Hong Kong and Finland **27**

REGULARS ***HOT SHOTS:*** Big sellers or future overstocks? Predictions on the best new comic releases. **20**

COMPETITION: 25 copies of new Hunt Emerson collection to be won..... **26**

MEDIAFILE: How the press views comic industry capers **33**

FRAME TO FRAME: Comics to movies, movies to comics. The latest interactions between film and print. **34**

NETWORKS: A round-up of comics-related news, gossip and information gathered from the Internet. **39**

REVIEWS: Capsule comments on over 100 current comics **59**

MOVERS & SHAKERS: Britain's favourite column for top tips and hot gossip about the comics industry **72**

MOVERS & SHAKERS PHOTO EXTRA: Candid shots of comics creators from the past and present **74**

LISTINGS

ADVANCE LISTINGS US: skip month

ADVANCE LISTINGS UK: February on sale UK newsstand titles. **24**

WORLD FESTIVAL GUIDE: The top international comics events. **28**

INTERNATIONAL RETAIL INDEX: Where to get your comic books when you travel abroad. **29**

RETAIL INDEX: The UK's leading comics, card and fantasy shops. **30**

GRADING GUIDE **45**

MAIL ORDER INDEX: The leading UK postal specialists. **54**

COMICS ECONOMICS: The Top 150 US titles for January. **56**

PUBLISHER INDEX: The major US & UK comics publishers. **66**

UK EVENTS GUIDE: All the top events from January to March. ... **82**

READER ACCESS

COMMENT **43**

Q&A **49**

LETTERS **76**

CLASSIFIED **78**

IN BRIEF

Lydia Lunch creates Vertigo voodoo

CONFRONTATIONAL post-punk performance artist Lydia Lunch has produced her most high-profile comics work to date in **Toxic Gumbo**, a 48-page prestige format one-shot from DC's Vertigo imprint.

Set in the Louisiana Bayou, it tells the tale of a young Cajun woman who becomes immune to toxins as the result of a freak accident. She uses her mastery of voodoo to recreate herself as she undertakes a perilous journey of self-discovery.

Lunch, last seen in print in the pages of Simon Henwood's **Purr** Magazine, is joined on **Toxic Gumbo** by illustrator Ted (**Industrial Gothic**) McKeever.

***Toxic Gumbo**, priced $5.95, ships on March 18.*

Lost in Space date set, but no creators

DARK Horse will launch its **Lost In Space** line on April 15 with a mini-series which will serve as a sequel to the forthcoming *Lost in Space* movie, opening in America in April.

As yet no writer or artists have been assigned to the project, negotiations to find the most suitable creative team continue between New Line Cinema and Dark Horse Comics.

New Pantha series in production

HARRIS Comics has announced plans for a continuing **Pantha** series to debut later this year.

Although no writer has been named for the new title, the series will feature art by Mark (**Ghost Rider**) Texeira. According to Harris, Texeira has been working on a brand new illustrative technique which he plans to introduce in **Pantha**.

Possibly acting as a platform to boost Pantha's popularity, **Comics International** understands that the next story arc in Harris's monthly **Vampirella** series could feature an unlikely three way team-up... between Vampirella, Pantha and, in what could be a licencing and mid-run precedent, Crusade Comics' Shi. The story will be produced by the regular creative team of Grant Morrison and Mark Millar (story), and Amanda Connor and Jimmy Palmiotti (art) and will run through issues #7 to 9.

Amalgamatus interruptus

A DC REPRESENTATIVE has told **Comics International** that there are no plans for either DC or Marvel to continue its 1996 and 1997 tradition of producing Amalgam titles in 1998.

Although the Amalgam line of merged heroes is not considered played out, there is nothing in the pipeline at the moment.

2099: Not with a whimper but a bang?

MARVEL plans to tie up loose ends left over from its 2099 line in a 48-page special written by **Bloodshot**'s Len Kaminski and illustrated by the Amalgam **Metal Men** art team of Mike McKone and Mark McKenna.

In **2099: Manifest Destiny**, Miguel O'Hara – the 21st Century Spider-Man – struggles to save humanity from ruin with the help of one of the past's greatest heroes. The bookshelf formula one-shot will also feature the death of a millennia-old being, and introduce 2099's Moon Knight, while revealing at last the origin of the timeline's Fantastic Four.

***2099: Manifest Destiny**, priced $5.99, ships March 11.*

*ABOVE: Randy Queen and Jason (**Grifter**) Gorder's cover art for **Darkchylde** #0, shipping from Image Comics in March. Written by creator Queen, and illustrated by Gorder and newcomer Keu Cha, the story discloses previously unknown aspects of Darkchylde's past and reveals what happened to her after the conclusion of the original five-issue mini-series. The $2.50 comic will serve as a lead-in to the forthcoming **Darkchylde** ongoing series.*

Xena expansion from Topps

TV's Warrior Princess to get own trading card set to coincide with launch of fifth mini-series

DESPITE the failure of its comic based on the *Hercules: The Legendary Journey* TV series, Topps continues to reap the benefits of the success of the *Xena: Warrior Princess* TV spin-off.

The latest addition is **Xena: Warrior Princess – Orpheus**. By former **Legionnaires** co-writers Tom and Mary Bierbaum – who also wrote the second **Xena** series – this new three-part story is drawn by Robert Teranishi, penciller of **Xena: Warrior Princess – The Dragon's Teeth**.

The story tells how Xena and Gabrielle are forced into rescuing Orpheus's wife from the Underworld, where the two face the vengeful remains of Xena's earlier mutilated victims.

Lined up for the future are two further **Xena** two-parters: Aaron (**Xena** #0) Lopresti's **Bloodlines** and **The Wrath of Hera** by **Legend of Wonder Woman**'s Trina Robbins.

Topps is also releasing a *Xena: Warrior Princess* trading card set. Shipping in boxes of 36 packs – 8 cards per pack – this 72-card set features photos from the TV series and a gallery of art including work by Dave Stevens, Jim Silke, Aaron Lopresti and Jim Silke.

***Xena: Warrior Princess – Orpheus** #1 priced $2.95, and **Xena: Warrior Princess** trading cards ship in March.*

Marvel set to publish a new two-in-one-shot

THE LONG **Night** is a 40-page Marvel one-shot which stars the Thing and She-Hulk.

Announced as being in the spirit of **Marvel Two-In-One**, the comic is written by **The Sensational Spider-Man**'s Todd DeZago.

In it the duo is pitted against the Fantastic Four's old foe, Dragon Man.

The Long Night is being drawn by the **Colossus** art team of Bryan Hitch – who describes it as "*From Dusk to Dawn* meets *Daylight*" – and his regular inker, Paul Neary.

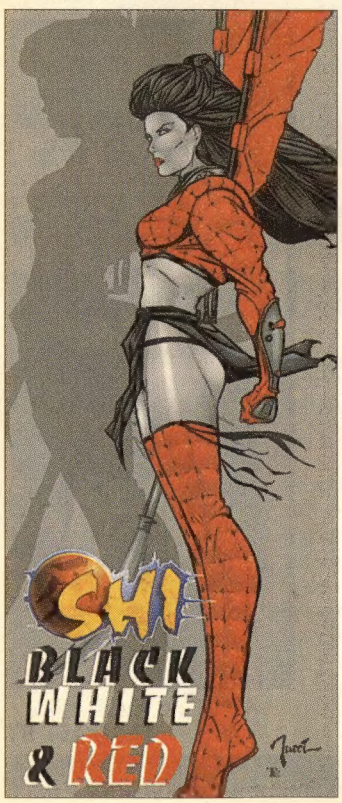
The original Thing team-up title, **Marvel Two-in-One**, had been created in 1974 as a new monthly vehicle for the most popular Fantastic Four member, in which he co-starred with a range of heroes and villains from across the Marvel superhero universe.

The Long Night art team of Hitch and Neary is also drawing one of three **Green Lantern** DC projects. All are currently being referred to simply as "annuals", and will be written by **Green Lantern** regular Ron Marz.

***The Long Night**, priced $2.99, ships on March 18.*

Crusade customises comic covers for Shi fans

CRUSADE Entertainment is to give fans the chance to obtain an original cover to its March-shipping **Shi: The Art of War 1998 Tour Book**.



The comic will be published with a unique cover, featuring only the colour logo and art guide blue lines. Original cover art will be added free of charge for fans presenting their copy of the one-shot to Shi creator Billy Tucci or any Crusade artists appearing at conventions or stores.

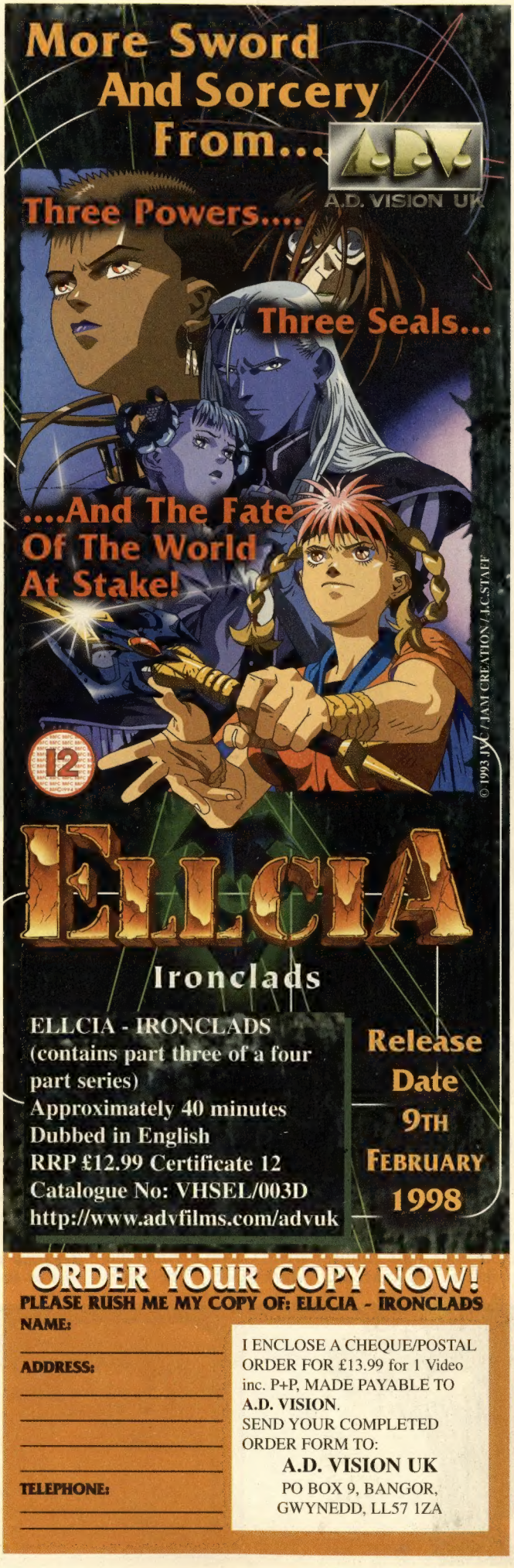
Crusade's **1998 Tour Book** contains much previously unpublished material including Tucci's early art samples and in-depth information on the company.

Also shipping in March is the first of two issues of **Shi: Black, White and Red**. Written by **Vengeance of Vampirella**'s Tom Sniegoski, it tells of Shi's confrontation with the evil Hengeyokai. This ancient Japanese shape-changing monster comes to New York seeking revenge for a centuries-old defeat.

Echoing **Sin City: The Babe Wore Red**, this title will be printed in black and white with splashes of crimson.

It is illustrated by J.G. Jones, artist on **Shi: The Series**, which will be published fortnightly from #9, shipping in April.

***Shi: The Art of War 1998 Tour Book**, priced $4.95, and **Shi: Black, White and Red** #1, priced $2.95, both ship on March 13.*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WildStorm to publish tie-in to top-selling video game

WILDSTORM Productions is to take its first major step outside the dedicated comic book market with a quarterly magazine for fans of *Resident Evil*, Capcom's highly-popular PlayStation game.

Published to coincide with the release of *Resident Evil 2*, the first issue of the 56-page **Resident Evil Comic Book Magazine** will include four comic stories as well as an interview with the game's producer and a look at the original character designs for the *Resident Evil 2* game.

The stories will include *Who are these Guys?* which previously appeared in the *Resident Evil: Director's Cut* strategy guide. It was produced by the **Spawn Movie Adaptation** team of writer Ted Adams and artists Carlos D'Anda and Mark Irwin. The other three strips are all-new.

Although unproven in America, this blending of comics and features has been a successful approach in the British market since the mid-1970s with **House of Hammer**.

The format can still be seen in such current titles as Titan's **X-Files** and **Spawn Comic Magazine**.

***Resident Evil Comic Book Magazine #1**, priced $4.95, ships on March 25.*

More Marvel revivals

TESTING the market for expanding its fledgling *Strange Tales* line, Marvel is to revive three more dark heroes in a 48-page anthology.

The **Strange Tales: Dark Corners** one-shot will bring back the Gargoyle, Cloak and Dagger and Morbius.

The Gargoyle story is written by **Man-Thing**'s J. M. DeMatteis and drawn by *Spider-Man Cybercomic*'s Mark Badger. In it, the former Defender wants to end his life but fate has other plans in store.

Cloak and Dagger question their harsh brand of vigilante justice in their return courtesy of Mike (**Nexus**) Baron. No art team has been assigned for this strip.

Completing the line-up, Morbius The Living Vampire is written by **Lady Rawhide**'s Don McGregor. The story focuses on Morbius's estranged wife who is struggling to come to terms with her supernatural resurrection at her husband's hands.

Sandman co-creator Mike Dringenberg draws this story which sets the stage for Morbius's key involvement in Marvel's forthcoming McGregor-written **Blade** series.

***Strange Tales: Dark Corners**, priced $3.99, ships on March 4*

Russell back on opera

OVER 20 years after it was launched, P. Craig Russell is to take his occasional series of opera adaptations to Dark Horse Comics.

Shipping in April, **The Clowns** is a 32-page black and white one-shot. A collaboration between Russell and **Renfield** artist Galen Showman, it is based upon the classic Italian opera *Pagliacci* by Ruggero Leoncavallo.

Russell's first opera strip was *Parsifal* in **Star*Reach** #8, 1976.

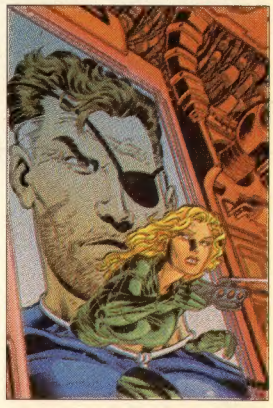
***The Clowns (Pagliacci)**, priced $2.95, ships April 22.*

Hell hath no Fury, Nick...

NICK Fury might be dead but if he isn't, **Captain America**'s Sharon Carter wants to be the one who kills him.

Fury/Agent 13 is a two-part Marvel series in which Carter – code-named Agent 13 – seeks revenge on Marvel's super-spy for leaving her to die behind enemy lines.

Written by Terry (**X-Man**) Kavanagh, each 48-page issue is drawn by Ramon (**X-Man '97**) Bernado and **What If**'s Ian Aiken.



***Fury/Agent13 #1**, priced $2.99, ships on March 11.*

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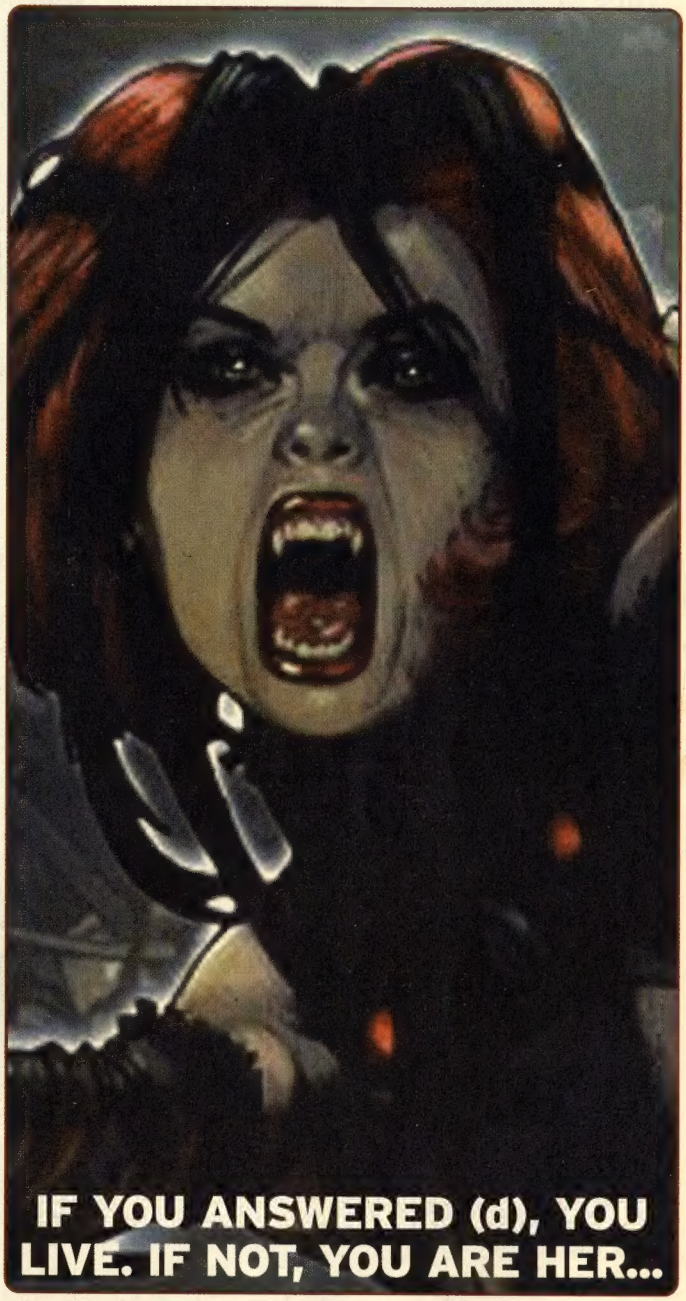

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IN BRIEF

Time and space trip for Lady Death

CHAOS! Comics is to transport its heroine of the underworld across time and space in its **Lady Death: Dragon Wars** one-shot.

Set 200 years in the past, the story tells how Lady Death heads off on a quest to rid herself of Lucifer's curse, and ends up stranded on a world where militaristic dragons are engaged in a civil war.

Lady Death: Dragon Wars is written by **Pinky and the Brain**'s Jessie Leon McCann and illustrated by Ivan (**Ghost**) Reiss. It features a cover and new costume design by **Animal Mystic**'s Dark One.

***Lady Death: Dragon Wars**, priced $2.95, ships in March.*

Dark Horse zombies invade New York

WINTER'S Dregs is to be the latest addition to Dark Horse's expanding line of **Zombieworld** comics.

Currently unscheduled, the four-issue series will be written by Bob (**Minimum Wage**) Fingerman with art by **Moon Knight** artist Tommy Lee Edwards. When asked to describe the plot, editor Scott Allie explained: "New York falls to shit and zombies eat everybody."

Origins: the new generation

AFTER a gap of over 20 years, Marvel is releasing its fifth volume in the **Origins of Marvel Comics** series, launched by Simon and Schuster's Fireside imprint in 1974.

Grandson of Origins of Marvel Comics is a 256-page collection of the origins of Captain America, Namor the Sub-Mariner, Nick Fury, Ka-Zar and Professor X. Presenting Marvel at its peak, it features work by creators including Stan Lee, John Buscema, John Byrne, John Romita Jr, Chris Claremont, Jim Steranko and Jack Kirby.

This latest volume follows **Origins of Marvel Comics**, **Son of Origins of Marvel Comics**, **Bring on the Bad Guys** and **The Super-Hero Women**, all of which were first published between 1974-1977 with Marvel having recently reprinted the first three books.

***Grandson of Origins of Marvel Comics**, priced $24.99, ships on March 18.*

DC editor resigns

DC EDITOR K.C. Carlson has resigned from the company to pursue a freelance writing career.

Rather than replacing him, DC is distributing his workload among other DC editors. Mike McAvennie will take over fan-favourites **Legion of Super-Heroes** and **Legionnaires**, Dan Thorsland will handle the recently-launched **Secret Files** spin-offs and Kevin Dooley is to edit **Adventures in the DC Universe**.

Liefeld and Loeb's new Awesome title

THE PUBLISHER and president of Awesome Entertainment, Rob Liefeld and Jeph Loeb, are the creative team on the company's new launch, **Re-Gex**. The ex-**Captain America** pair most recently collaborated on Awesome's first **Fighting American** mini-series.

This unscheduled title tells the story of a man who spent the last 15 years killing off his own kind, but now discovers that he is forced into spending the rest of his life trying to save his race from extinction.

ABOVE: The Incredible Hulk bronze statue from Bowen Designs. Sculpted at 1/6th scale by Randy Bowen, it is visually inspired by Hulk co-creator Jack Kirby's original depiction of the character. Shipping in March, this second release in the series of "World's Greatest Comics" statues is mounted on a slab of black marble and limited to 100 castings. After its completion, all moulds are to be destroyed. Because of their scarcity, the sculptures will cost a princely $2,500 each, and come with a certificate of authenticity signed by Bowen and Hulk co-creator Stan Lee.

Garth Ennis: From the Hammer of Hell to Hellblazer

PREACHER writer Garth Ennis has discussed several recent and forthcoming projects with **Comics International**: "Some of the **Preacher Specials** we've done were just for fun, but spin-offs like **Saint of Killers** and **One Man's War** are important to the main stories. If we hadn't been offered specials, we'd have had to to tell the stories in the regular title."

He added: "There will probably be another **Preacher** spin-off towards the end of 1998."

Ennis's other monthly DC title, **Hitman**, will see the Irish assassin face Lobo later this year in the **Hitman v Lobo** one-shot.

Ennis will also soon be developing a new two-part **Enemy Ace** series. In it, Bob Kanigher's and Joe Kubert's cult creation, the World War I pilot Hans von Hammer, will be 23 years older, with the action taking place in World War II. Ennis said that he hopes to portray a different side to war, as he did in his 1997 **Unknown Soldier** mini-series, also for Vertigo.

Book One will be drawn by Christian (**Lobo**) Alamy, and finds "The Hammer from Hell" on the Russian front. Russ (**Sgt Rock**) Heath will draw Book Two, as von Hammer defends his German homeland against American B-52 bombers.

Finally, when writer Paul Jenkins' run ends in late summer, Ennis will return to **Hellblazer**, the title that helped establish his reputation, for a five-part story to be drawn by **Pride & Joy**'s John Higgins.

Four new secret identities for Spider-Man's alter ego

MARVEL Comics' reconstruction of Spider-Man takes an unexpected turn as the web-slinger is to adopt four new identities.

Wanted for the killing of an innocent bystander in January's *Spider-Hunt*, Peter Parker abandons his Spider-Man costume as February's *Identity Crisis* storyline continues.

As he attempts to clear his name, he realises that he needs to operate as a superhero and creates four new costumes to avoid any unwarranted attention.

Parker's new identities will each be introduced in one of March's regular ($1.99) Spider-Man titles:

• **Sensational Spider-Man** #27 introduces The Hornet (above) in a Todd DeZago story, drawn by Mike Wieringo and Richard Case.

• Ricochet (below, left) will debut in **Amazing Spider-Man** #434, written by Tom DeFalco and drawn by Joe Bennett and Bud LaRosa.

• **Peter Parker, Spider-Man** #91 – by Howard Mackie (story) and John Romita Jr and Scott Hanna (art) – features the debut of Dusk (centre).

• Writer J.M. DeMatteis and artists Luke Ross and Dan Green introduce Prodigy (below right) in **Spectacular Spider-Man** #257.

*ABOVE: Kabuki creator David Mack's cover art for the 128-page **Kabuki: Masks of the Noh** trade paperback. Shipping from Image in March, this $10.95 black and white book contains the first reprinting of Mack's 1996 Caliber series. It also contains 30 pages of new material including a gallery of art by Mack, Joe Quesada, Dan Brereton and others as well as Mack's preliminary designs and sketches for the series.*

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FORBIDDEN PLANET

IN BRIEF

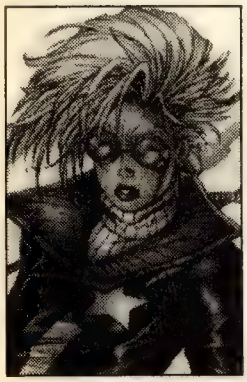
Claremont takes over from Lobdell

SCOTT Lobdell is to write three issues of **Daredevil** following series regular Joe Kelly's departure with the double-sized #375 which ships on March 4.

Lobdell is the current writer of the relaunched **Fantastic Four** but will be replaced on that title by Chris Claremont, Marvel's newly-installed vice president – editorial director. Former **X-Men** maestro Claremont will be collaborating with Lobdell on issues 4 and 5, taking over completely with April's #6.

Marvel has yet to indicate who will take over **Daredevil** following Lobdell.

Fighting American spin-off



FIGHTING AMERICAN's ally, the young female "super prototype intelligent cyborg entity" (or S.P.I.C.E.) is to go it alone in a new Awesome Entertainment one-shot.

Produced by **Youngblood** creator Rob Liefeld, **Batman: The Long Halloween**'s Jeph Loeb and Dan (**Spider-Man/Badrock**) Fraga, **S.P.I.C.E.** #1 also features guest stars Badrock, Kaboom and Swat.

S.P.I.C.E. first appeared in Awesome's **Fighting American** #1 by Loeb, Liefeld and Jonathan Sibal.

S.P.I.C.E. #1, priced $2.50, ships in March.

Lois Lane goes solo

ALMOST a quarter of a century after the cancellation of her own long-running title, Superman's wife Lois Lane is to get her own DC Comics one-shot.

Tentatively scheduled for May, it will be written by Barbara (**Savant Garde**) Kesel with art by the **Vampirella** team of Amanda Conner and Jimmy Palmiotti.

Very much a product of its era, **Superman's Girlfriend, Lois Lane** was launched in 1958 and ran 137 issues until 1974. DC also produced a two-issue **Lois Lane** series in 1986, drawn by **Penthouse Comix** contributor Gray Morrow.

Faust creators re-unite

WRITER David Quinn and artist Tim Vigil, creators of the controversial but unfinished 1989 series **Faust**, are collorating on a new comic, despite not having yet completed **Faust**.

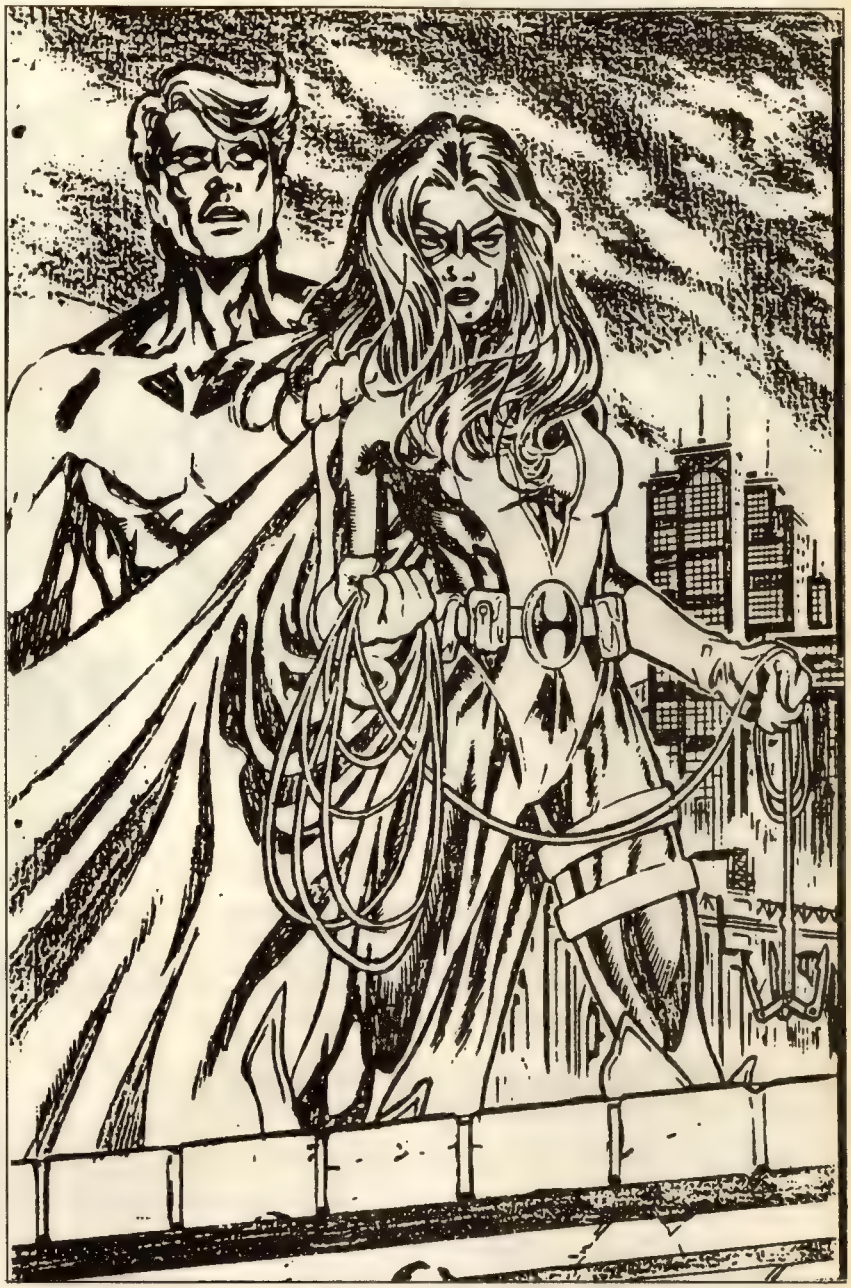
Published by Avatar Press, the three-part **777: The Wrath** tells of one man who discovers that Armageddon isn't going to happen. With one foot in heaven, the other in the cesspool of humanity and his body decaying, he's going to do what he can to make sure no-one escapes God's wrath or at least his substitute for it. As is usual for Quinn and Vigil's work, the series – which launches with four cover variants – is dark and brutally violent and for mature readers.

777: The Wrath #1, priced $3.00 (regular cover), $3.50 (wraparound), $6.00 (nude) and $25.00 (leather), ships in March.

Morrison and Grist obscura for Oni

BAD BOY publisher Oni Press is to produce a March-shipping $2.95 edition of one of Grant (**JLA**) Morrison's earlier UK comic stories.

First published by Trident Comics in its **Trident** anthology [1989], **St. Swithin's Day** is a story of a young man's struggle through Thatcherism. A black and white one-shot, it is drawn by **Kane** creator Paul Grist.



*ABOVE: Greg (**Nightwing** 1995) Land and Bill (**Elektra: Assassin**) Sienkiewicz artwork for DC's four-part **Nightwing and Huntress** #1. Following the murder of an undercover cop, Nightwing and Huntress unite to track down his killer but their motives are different. He seeks truth and justice while she wants to avenge the victim's death. The story is written by **Catwoman**'s Devin K. Grayson and the first $1.95 issue ships on March 18.*

Interactive superhero battles

Shi creator Billy Tucci develops innovative solution to the troubles faced by the dwindling US comics industry

HOPING to reverse the continuing sales drop in US comics, Crusade supremo Billy Tucci has created **Battle Books: The Art of War**.

Tucci admits to being inspired by the *Magic: The Gathering* card game. Its popularity had crossed over into comic shops – and its sales saved many from closing.

Tucci realised the drawback to the printed page. As he puts it, "Why buy a comic and read about a hero when you can buy a card or video game and *be* that hero?"

This is the challenge Tucci took on and developed for his **Battle Books** concept.

Currently negotiating licences with all the major comic publishers, Tucci intends to create a unified comic universe on the printed page, each title being like a set of cards, with action shots and power ratings for a particular character.

Readers/players will then be able to use the comic pages against each other and decide who is the most powerful hero.

As Tucci says, "Imagine Spawn vs Spider-Man, Shi versus Witchblade, Ash versus the Human Torch... the possibilities are endless."

ABOVE: John Cassaday's cover art for ***Desperadoes*** *#5. Conceived as a four-issue mini-series, Homage's critically-acclaimed book has been extended to a fifth issue with the possibility of becoming a continuing title. This issue of the western horror comic will now ship in April to allow artist Cassaday time to work on projects for Marvel (see elsewhere this issue). Desperadoes #5 features a self-contained story which hints at the greater story arc to follow.*

March is manga month

Dark Horse's annual promotion of Japanese comics reflects the genre's increasing popularity in America and the UK

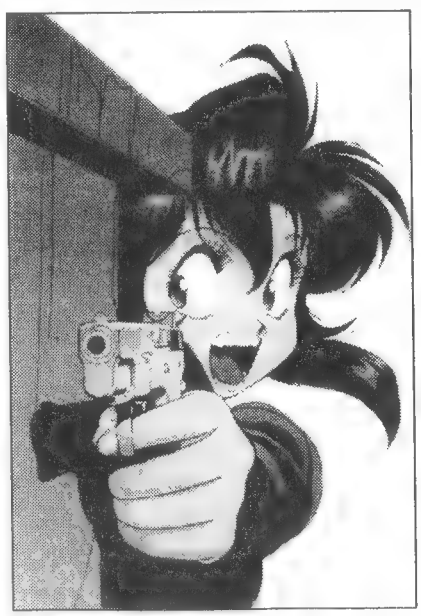
TO FOCUS attention on its growing list of Japanese titles, Dark Horse Comics has again dubbed March as manga month.

As part of this year's promotion, the company will release **Rin's Bane**, a two-part series to be launched on March 25. The story is a continuation of Hiroaki Samura's **Blade of the Immortal**, and tells the tale of a warrior who cannot die until he has slain 1,000 evil men.

Miss Keiichi, Kosuke Fujishima's saga of the goddess Belldandy and her two sisters, continues in the ongoing **Oh My Goddess!** with a two-part serial, starting on March 18.

Both series will be 48 pages, and cost $3.95.

Drakuun: Shadow of the Warlock, **Gunsmith Cats: Goldie vs Misty** (below), **The Legend of Mother Sarah: City of the Angels** and **The Two Faces of Tomorrow** are the other Dark Horse manga comics continuing through March. All are priced $2.95 except the 48-page $3.95 **Legend of Mother Sarah**.



Scheduled to ship in April are two additional manga collections: the 168-page **Drakuun Rise of the Dragon Princess** ($12.95) and the 248-page $17.95 **Gunsmith Cats: The Return of Gray Miss Keiichi**. Both are sized 5¾x8¼" and, as with the other Dark Horse manga titles, will be published in black and white.

Also due in April, is the **Oh My Goddess Postcard Book** ($12.95) which will contain 32 full colour postcards by Fujishima.

Warhammer hits comics

GAMES Workshop is to launch a comic dedicated to its *Warhammer*, *Warhammer 40,000* and *Necromunda* games.

Warhammer Monthly is the company's first all comics title, a black and white anthology. It joins the England-based games manufacturer's recently-launched **Inferno!: Tales of Fantasy and Adventure**, which carries both comic and prose stories based on the company's role-playing games.

Although there have been licensed comics based on games in the past, Games Workshop is only the second games manufacturer to publish its own comics.

In 1990, Dungeons & Dragons producer TSR created a short-lived line of titles based on some of its lesser-known material.

***Warhammer Monthly** #1, priced $2.95, ships in March.*

A Vertigo tale of one woman and her ostrich

THIS IS NEVADA. WHO--
OH, SHIT, DOLAN. GIVE ME A BREAK.
NO, I DO NOT WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
YES, I MEAN EVER.
LOOK, I REALLY CAN'T TALK ON THIS LINE--
I CAN'T MEET YOU FOR A DRINK, EITHER. I HAVE ANOTHER SHOW TO--
NO, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WOULD IF I--
YES, WE HAD FUN, BUT IT'S OVER, DOLAN

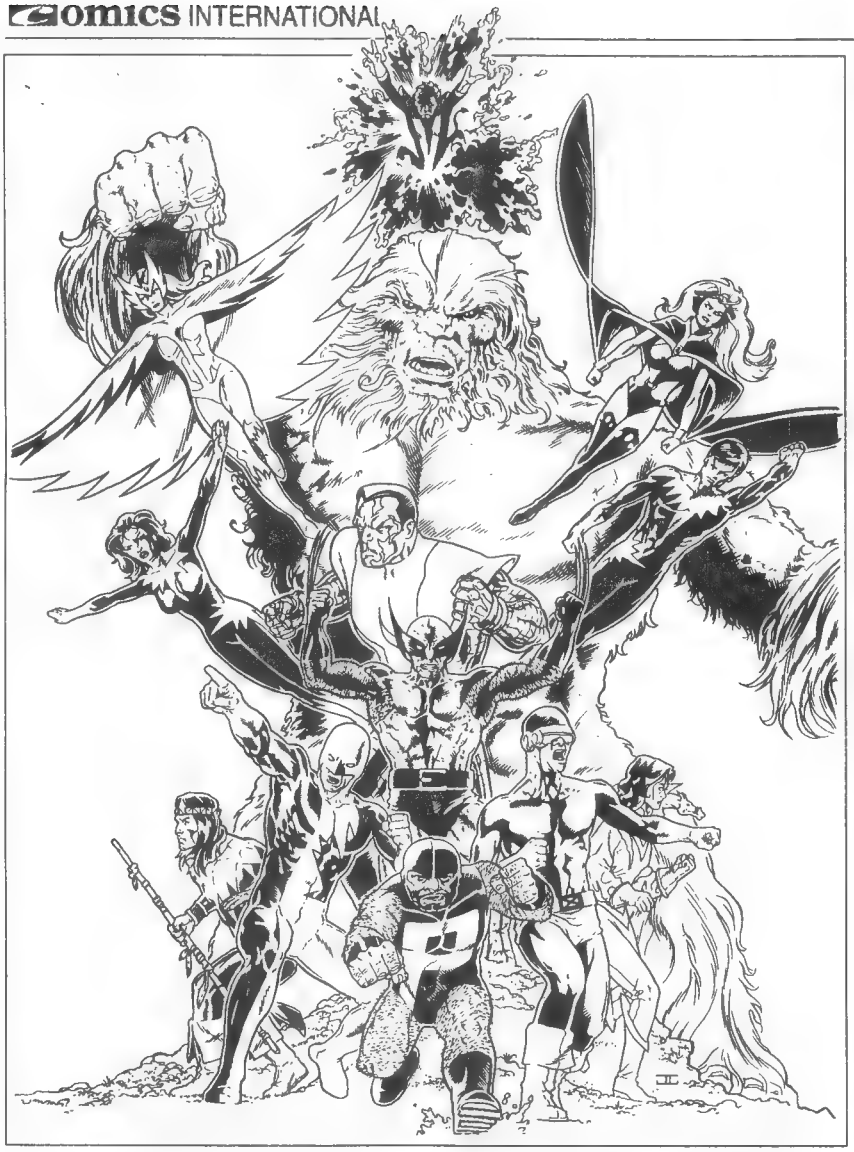
HOWARD the Duck creator Steve Gerber's latest comic is **Nevada**, for DC's Vertigo imprint.

The $2.50 six-issue series tells of a Las Vegas showgirl who has an ostrich as both a pet and a partner.

The story tells how, stalked by her ex-lover, she becomes involved in a series of bizarre murders.

Phil (**Wonder Woman: Amazonia**) Winslade and Steve (**Chronos**) Leialoha illustrate this saga of dismembered corpses, accidental time travel and other weirdness.

***Nevada** #1 ships on March 25.*



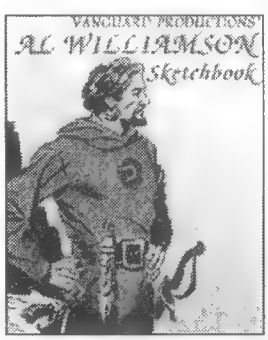
*ABOVE: John (**Desperadoes**) Cassaday's cover art for the $2.99 **X-Men/Alpha Flight** #1. Written by Ben (**Excalibur**) Raab and drawn by Cassaday, the two-part Marvel series debuts on March 18. Set during the classic Chris Claremont/John Byrne X-Men era. It tells how Baron Strucker uses technology created by Alpha Flight's James MacDonald Hudson (aka Guardian) in an attempt to gain revenge on Professor X and his X-Men. A month earlier Marvel is shipping **X-Men and Alpha Flight: The Gift**, a compilation of Marvel's first series [1986] teaming the two groups. By Claremont (story) and Paul Smith and Bob Wiacek (art), it retails at $3.99.*

Career retrospective for veteran fantasy artist

AL WILLIAMSON's 50-year career in comics is being celebrated by Vanguard Productions.

The first major collection devoted to the artist's work, Vanguard's **Al Williamson Sketchbook** is a 100-page trade paperback containing a wealth of rare and previously unpublished material.

The full colour material spans Williamson's entire career. It covers his early collaboration with such artists as Burne Hogarth, Frank Frazetta and Roy Krenkel and his days on EC's **Weird Science** and **Weird Fantasy**. Also included is his time spent with Warren Publishing on **Creepy** and **Eerie** and newspaper strips *Flash Gordon*, *Secret Agent Corrigan* and *Star Wars* through to his current workload.



Although probably best-known today for inking such titles as **Daredevil** and the current **Marvel Team-Up**, Williamson actually started in comics in 1948, with his art first appearing in Douglas's **Heroic** #51.

Strongly influenced by Alex Raymond, Carlos Clemen and Burne Hogarth, Williamson is an artist whose appeal spans all generations.

***Al Williamson Sketchbook**, priced $12.95, ships in March.*

IN BRIEF

Terminator back at Dark Horse

DARK Horse has revealed its plans for its re-acquired licence for **The Terminator** to **Comics International**.

To wrap-up the loose ends of its 1992 **Terminator: End Game** mini-series, Dark Horse will first be publishing a one-shot with covers and interiors by Frank (**Sabretooth**) Teran.

Written by **Batman: Shadow of the Bat**'s Alan Grant and tentatively scheduled for July, this will be followed by a Grant-written mini-series currently planned for October publication. A four-parter, it will be pencilled by **Hard Boiled**'s Geof Darrow and inked by Steve (**2020 Vision**) Pugh.

Although few other details are yet available, Dark Horse plans to follow the mini-series with a second one-shot.

Setback for Blue Beetle and friends

ACCORDING to DC, Bob Layton's planned revival of its Charlton action heroes will not now appear until 1999.

Paradox Press asks: Who's Bad?

DC'S PARADOX Press mixes fact with fiction for the latest in its $14.95 *Big Book* series.

An 8½x11" title, the April 1st shipping **Big Book of Bad** is 192 pages covering the lives of both real and fictional villains such as Pol Pot, Jack the Ripper and Lady Macbeth. Also featured are chapters on bad taste and atrocities includ-ing Russia's Stalinist purges.

Artists on the Paul Kirchner, Anita Bennett and Steve Vance written title include Eddie Campbell and Colleen Doran.

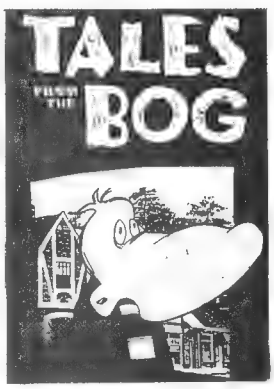
Jim Starlin at Awesome

AWESOME Entertainment has announced that Jim Starlin is the latest high profile creator to work on one of its projects based on Joe Simon and Jack Kirby's Fighting American.

Probably best-known for **Captain Marvel** and **Warlock** at Marvel and as writer of *A Death in the Family* in **Batman** #426-429, Starlin will be joining artist Stephen Platt on the forthcoming **Fighting American: Dogs of War** mini-series.

According to Awesome, the story will centre around the question of whether Fighting American is the only super-soldier that the United States has created and what happens when John Flagg encounters a man whose job description is the same as his, but whose methods are drastically different.

Creators' favourite remastered



MARCUS Lusk's **Tales from the Bog #1** is to be reprinted with extra story pages.

Praised not only by **Bone** creator Jeff Smith but also by such other industry luminaries as Dave (**Cerebus**) Sim and **The Spirit** creator Will Eisner, Lusk self-publishes the black and white title as Aberration Press. Launched in 1995, he has produced eight issues to date.

***Tales from the Bog: The Director's Cut #1**, priced $2.95, ships in March.*

Further Sandman spin-off plans

VERTIGO's next **Sandman**-related spin-off is an entire range of titles, both one-offs and mini-series, all under the umbrella heading of **The Sandman Presents....**

It premieres with the three-part **Lucifer's Hammer**. Written by Elizabeth (**Anima**) Hand and drawn by **Batman: Dark Knight Dynasty**'s Scott Hampton, it is tentatively scheduled for August.

ABOVE: An establishing sketch by ***Tarzan*** *artist Tom Yeates of the major characters from* ***Tomahawk****, a forthcoming Vertigo one-shot written by Rachel (****Doom Patrol****) Pollack. Yeates had previously drawn the character during the time-travel story arc, in* ***Swamp Thing*** *#68, but this new one-shot will feature an updating of DC's major western hero (1947 to 1972) excluding such familiar characters as sidekick Dan Hunter, the Tomahawk Rangers and the latter-day Hawk, Son of Tomahawk. Instead it will follow the life of Thomas Hawke, gentleman of Boston (top right) through to his older, more enlightened life as Tomahawk (bottom middle).*

Stardust extended

ORIGINALLY planned at 48 pages, the final part of **Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess's Stardust** #4 is being expanded to 64 pages.

Gaiman explained, "The story, as I believe J.R.R. Tolkien said of his book, grew in the telling – not to **Lord of the Rings** length, thank heavens, or else Book 4 would have been about 1,000 pages long. But once **Stardust** was finished, it became increasingly apparent that the only way that Book 4 would be 48 pages was by either a) losing all the illustrations or b) losing a chapter of prose."

He continued, "None of us was very keen on the 'lose all the pictures' option, while the thing that makes Book 4 so much fun is that all the tangled and unresolvable threads of the plot come together like, well, I hope like magic. It's just that there were rather a lot of threads, and they took longer to knit than we expected."

The book will now ship February 25, priced $6.95.

ABOVE: ***Cosmic Toast*** *creator Jim Mahfood's cover art for his black and white* ***Generation X: Underground****. Available on March 4, this $2.50 Marvel Comics one-shot contains three separate stories featuring members of Marvel's youngest mutant team.*

Valentino's Image line to publish manga graphic novel

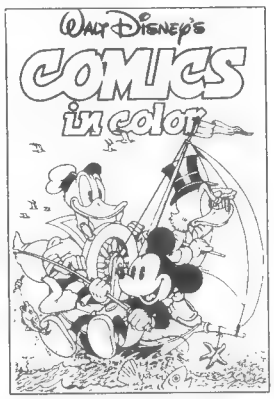
MANGA creator Lea Hernandez's **Cathedral Child** is a 112-page graphic novel shipping from Jim Valentino's "non-line" of Image Comics in March.

Set in 1897 in a Texas church, a frontier for steampunk technology and old magic, this $9.95 black and white book features Cathedral, a giant sentient computer, and its virtual twin which seeks a living body.

New Barks colour title

SET TO coincide with the celebrated Donald Duck artist Carl Barks' 97th birthday, Gladstone Comics is launching **Walt Disney's Comics in Color**.

The 78-page all-Barks first issue of the 8x11" series contains stories from the 1930s to the 1960s plus one non-Barks tale, by the artist's mentor, Floyd Gottfredson.



Walt Disney's Comics in Color *#1, priced $9.95, ships in March.*

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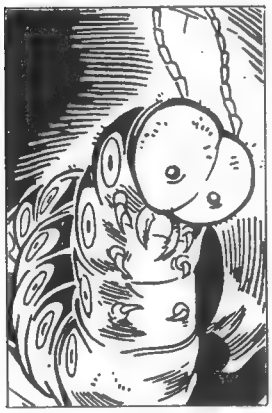
IN BRIEF

Nocturnals creator takes on Buffy

DARK Horse's first comic series based on the popular *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* TV show will be written by Dan Brereton.

Better known as the illustrator of DC's **Thrillkillers**, and the creator of **The Nocturnals**, Brereton is joining artist Duncan Fegredo on the initial **Buffy the Vampire Slayer** mini-series. The three-to-four part first story is currently scheduled to launch in May.

The world's wickedest worm is back



DC'S **The Power of Shazam!** #38 marks the start of a four-part *Monster Society of Evil* tale.

Presented by the regular creative team of Jerry Ordway (story), and Peter Krause and Dick Giordano (art), the story features the return of Mr Mind, the worm-like alien conqueror.

Last seen in issue #18, Mr Mind joins forces with Monster Society members Sin, Mister Atom and Sarge Steel to exact revenge on the Marvel family.

The Power of Shazam! #38, priced $1.95, ships March 4.

Roz Kirby dies, aged 75

ROZ KIRBY, widow of comic legend Jack, passed away on Monday, December 22nd 1997, following a brief illness, *reports Chris Harper.*

Born Rosalind Goldstein in Brooklyn, New York, on September 25th 1922, she met Kirby in 1940. They were married shortly before he was drafted into the army, on May 23rd 1942.

Without the support and inspiration Roz provided, the story of Kirby's career might have been very different. Since his death in 1994, Roz expected the constant attention of fans to drop off, but this was not the case. Every year at the San Diego Comic Con, Roz continued to receive the standing ovations once reserved for Kirby himself.

Funeral services were held on December 26. Former Kirby assistant Mark Evanier was amongst those delivering eulogies.

Fantasy story for Crow creator

THE THIRD issue of Peregrine Entertainment's sword and sorcery anthology, **Books of Lore Special Edition** will include a story illustrated by James O'Barr, creator of **The Crow**.

A 40-page black and white comic, it also includes stories drawn by Philip (**Legendlore**) Xavier and former **Flash** artist Greg LaRocque.

The cover is by **Enemy Ace: War Idyll**'s George Pratt. **Books of Lore: Special Edition** #3, priced $2.95, ships in March.

Goldfish collected

MOJO Press is issuing a compilation of **AKA Goldfish**, Brian Michael Bendis's Caliber series under the title **Goldfish**.

The 250-page black and white trade paperback will also contain new material.

A trade paperback collection of **Jinx**, Bendis's other Caliber series, is also planned.

***Goldfish** trade paperback, priced $18.95 (softcover) and $29.95 (hardcover), ships in March.*

Toth gets the Glamour treatment

GLAMOUR #24, shipping in March, is to be devoted to the work of the esteemed Golden and Silver Age artist Alex Toth.

The 12x12" $34.95 magazine will include an interview with Toth and a complete index of his work. It will also feature *Toth's Women* portfolio, and *Alex Toth and the Dark Side of Comics.*

Published in Italy with Italian and English text, **Glamour** is a mature readers' title printed part colour and part black and white.

*ABOVE: Alex (**Sharkey**) Horley's cover to **Dead or Alive: A Cyberpunk Western** #1, from the **Egon** creative team of Tatjana and Alberto Ponticell, and Shok Studios. The four-part Dark Horse series features bad lands, bad men, artificial cows that produce artificial meat, a newborn child and the Premonition Fairy. Scheduled to ship on April 29, the 20-page first issue will cost $2.50.*

New publisher for Burns

Fantagraphic Books picks up cult favourite's horror comic title and plans hardcover collections of his work

CHARLES Burns, the David Lynch of comicdom, is bringing his **Black Hole** comic to Fantagraphics as of issue #5, available in March.

The first four issues of the black and white series were published by Kitchen Sink Press who launched the title in 1995.

Fantagraphics Books also plans to bring all of Burns's earlier work back into print.

According to the publisher, its hardcover Burns library series will reprint all of Burns's published work up to **The Black Hole**. It intends to start the series by reprinting two earlier collections, **True Defective Stories** and **Skin Deep**, previously only available in softcover. These will be followed by **Big Baby**, and a fourth volume Fantagraphics has currently dubbed "the best of the rest".

The Burns library series is currently scheduled to premiere in July with the publication of his **True Defective Stories**.

PREVIEW

WITH THE news that John Byrne is now taking on projects at Marvel, it would appear appropriate timing for DC to bring back the pre-Byrne Wonder Woman team of Bill Messner-Loebs and Mike Deodato Jr. The pair are reuniting on the Amazon Princess for a two-part story split across issues four and five of ***Legends of the DC Universe****, shipping in March and April. Behind a Steve Rude cover, the story tells of her discovering that relying on her new Boston sisters could turn the city into a war zone.*

AND SOMEWHERE, ON A MOUNTAIN OF SKULLS, SURROUNDED BY GUARDS AND SLAVES AND PRISONERS, FANNED BY ACRIO, CHOKING WINOS AND THE WHIMPERS OF HIS VICTIMS, THE GOD OF WAR LAUGHS.
IT IS A DEEP, PLANGENT LAUGH AND THERE IS BLOOD IN IT.
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102 vf+ (p)	£8.00	144 nm (c)	£6.00
103 vfn (p)	£8.00	145-151 nm (c)	£4.50
104 vfn (p)	£8.00	153 vfn (p)	£3.50
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CARD NEWS

*Few comic shop owners would deny that collectors consider trading cards and customisable card games (CCGs) are a key part of the market. As such, **Comics International** features Mike Conroy's Card News each issue, covering news in the non-sports area of this growing hobby.*

Comic greats for '98

LEADING indie comic creators are providing art and stories for a new Comic Images card set.

The titles covered by the *Comic Greats 1998* cards include **Ash**, **CyberForce**, **The Dark-ness**, **Leave it to Chance** and **Painkiller Jane** *(pictured above)*.

Among those contributing words and pictures are Joe Quesada, James Robinson, Marc Silvestri and Paul Smith.

The *Comic Greats 1998* series ships in March in boxes of 48 packs, with each pack containing eight cards.

Chase cards will include a set of six chromium cards and 500 assorted autographed cards.

A custom-made $19.95 binder will feaure an uncut six-card press sheet.

Dawn: Venus in Chrome

DAWN publisher Sirius Entertainment is to produce a *Dawn* chromium trading card set limited to 1,000.

Featuring a mixture of new and rare images by creator Joseph Michael Linsner, the *Dawn: Venus in Chrome* card set will consist of six 3x5" cards.

Each $35.00 set is to be individually signed and numbered by Linsner, and packaged in an illustrated envelope.

These March-shipping cards will not be made available in any other form.

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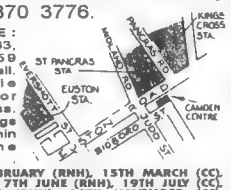

FUTURE CARD MART DATES: 1ST FEBRUARY (RNH), 15TH MARCH (CC), 5TH APRIL (RNH), 26TH APRIL (CC), 7TH JUNE (RNH), 19TH JULY (CC), 23RD AUGUST (CC), 4TH OCTOBER (RNH), 15TH NOVEMBER (CC), 6TH DECEMBER (RNH). CC=CAMDEN CENTRE. RNH=ROYAL NATIONAL HOTEL.

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HOTSHOTS

Every month ***Comics International*** *picks ten new titles from its Advance Listings. This is a skip month so, instead of predictions we are presenting an overview of the highs and lows from the last 12 months. Were we right? Were they big sellers or did they end their days as overstocks consigned to the 10p bins?*

☺☺☺ The Darkness

Image; Garth Ennis & Marc Silvestri

Not too big a gamble with this one, in that Garth Ennis had already achieved his "Midas touch" status when it was launched. We gave it three smilies back then, and, with hindsight, we're doing so now. *Reflection:* Name creators plus a mixture of Vertigo themes and top Image art spelled success.

☺☺☺ JLA

DC; Grant Morrison & Howard Porter

Undoubtedly the success story of 1997 and one we seriously undersold. *Hotshots* gave it one smiley and said "... will only work if Grant [Morrison] fires on all cylinders." Which he did! DC must be pleased to get another successful relaunch for its key team book. *Reflection:* As hot as you can get!

☺☺ Coven

Awesome; Ian Churchill & Jeph Loeb

Given only one smiley mainly because of the Liefeld involvement, **Coven** has proven that Rob does have a good eye for a hit. With retailers reporting big business on back issues and a move back into the Top 100 sales charts, the future for Ian Churchill's project is very rosy. *Reflection:* X-Files meets superheroes looked like a novel idea – and it worked!

☺☺ WildC.A.T.s/X-Men

Image/Marvel; various

At the start of the year, this was "the most eagerly awaited event of 1997". For retailers it proved to be an unprecedented success, although sales waned with the final instalment. *Reflection:* Did little for the **X-Men**, but proved to be valuable exposure for Jim Lee's waning **WildC.A.T.s**.

☺ Mage: The Hero Defined

Image; Matt Wagner

The real success of Image's "Non-Line", Matt (**Grendel**) Wagner returned to his defining series and a host of new readers joined him. **Mage** built up a cult following in the mid-Eighties and the latest adventures of Kevin Matchstick have further enhanced Wagner's reputation. *Reflection:* Has won Image Comics more older fans and given the company greater maturity.

☺ Thunderbolts

Marvel; Kurt Busiek & Mark Bagley

From the very first issue of this new superteam book, Kurt Busiek reconfirmed his worth as a comicbook writer. Villains posing as heroes isn't a new concept, but Busiek put in a neat twist and subsequently this title has maintained its presence as a mid-range seller. Solid storytelling and good art still sells and **Thunderbolts** deserves its kudos. *Reflection:* A valuable addition to retailers' monthly Marvel sales.

☹ The Kents

DC; John Ostrander + various

This just doesn't work. DC has persisted with its love affair of westerns, yet this hasn't achieved the accolades of the two **Jonah Hex** mini-series or the **Justice Riders** one-shot. *Reflection:* Perhaps the overworked historical dryness of the Kents' past should have remained an untold tale.

☹☹ Crimson Plague

Event; George Perez

Sometimes an artist realises that however good he is, it doesn't mean anything unless he's working on the right comics. **The Avengers** would appear to have resurrected George Perez's stalled career, **Crimson Plague** almost wrecked it. *Reflection:* A humbling experience for a seasoned pro.

☹☹ Michael Moorcock's Multiverse

DC/Helix; Michael Moorcock + various

Moorcock might sell library loads of books, but his most recent comic excursion has failed to excite the comic buying public. Retailers reported that even die-hard Moorcock fans were jumping ship within three months. *Reflection:* At least DC had the common sense to limit it to a 12-issue series maximum. But will it get there? Or have the royalties already been paid?

☹☹☹ Star Trek

Marvel/Paramount; various

It appears that Marvel still hasn't learned from Dark Horse how to make film tie-ins work properly. It failed with everything except **Star Wars** in the '70s and isn't doing any better now. The entire Trek line has featured some truly terrible covers so lifeless they would be too embarrassing for even die-hard Star Trek collectors. *Reflection:* Marvel should have left it to Malibu.

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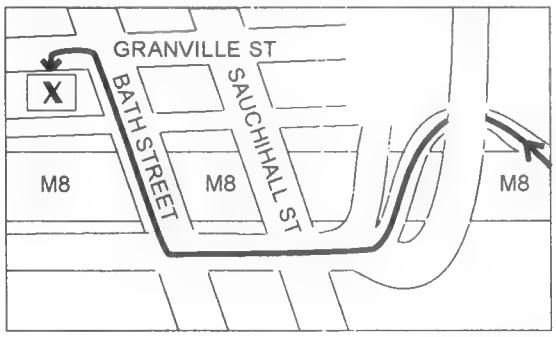

Exit at junction 18 of M8 (Charing Cross/Kelvingrove).

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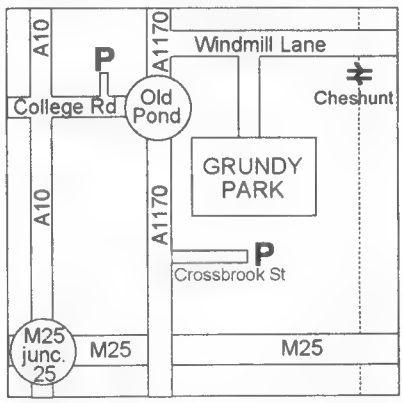

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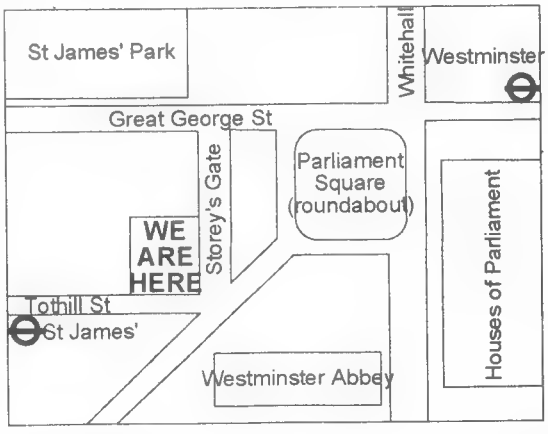

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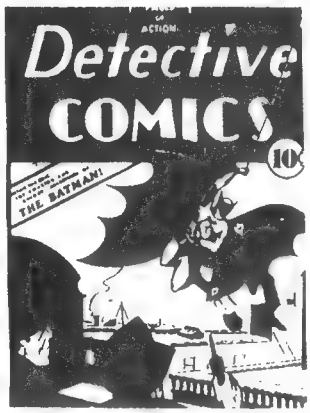

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With new cover art, the variant is signed by writers Mark Waid and Brian Augustyn and cover artists Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti.

HARRIS Comics is publishing a one-shot team-up between its Vampirella and Event's Painkiller Jane. Written by former **Flash** co-writers Mark Waid and Brian Augustyn, the **Vampirella/Painkiller Jane** crossover will be drawn by **Painkiller Jane** regular penciller Rick Leonardi with inks by Jimmy Palmiotti. Set in New York, the story tells of an investigation of a New York-based vampire cult by Harris's blood-sucking queen of the night and Event's female vigilante. Currently scheduled for May, the one-shot will feature alternate covers by Joe (**Ash**) Quesada and his Event partner, Palmiotti.

CUT OUT COUPON ALONG DOTTED LINE

Circle the correct answers from the following four questions

Which super-speedster are Mark Waid and Brian Augustyn best-known for writing?

a) Quicksilver
b) The Flash
c) The Whizzer

Vampirella can be described as...

a) A Czechoslovacian transvestite
b) A California beach babe
c) An alien vampire

Who is Jimmy Palmiotti's Event partner?

a) Joe Quesada
b) Joe Kubert
c) Joe Staton

For which Event comic does Joe Quesada produce pencil art?

a) Ash
b) Cynder
c) Sooty and Sweep

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All entries must be postmarked before March 31st 1998

ADVANCE LISTINGS UK

With the majority of UK-produced comics, trade paperbacks and graphic novels not readily available, the following listing of material to be published next month gives readers the opportunity to order specific titles through newsagent's, bookshops or specialist outlets. As such, only titles nationally distributed through federated news outlets are included. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers. Late shipping, cancellations and changes in content will be detailed in future issues of ***Comics International****.*

Compiled by Kerry-Ann Hurley

Key to abbreviations used:

1 & 2 + 3	=	*Writer & penciller + Inker*
wkly	=	*weekly frequency*
ftnly	=	*fortnightly frequency*
mthly	=	*monthly frequency*
qtrly	=	*quarterly frequency*
dgst	=	*small, approx A5 sized*
sqbd	=	*perfect bound; squared spine; without staples*
b&w	=	*black & white contents*
clr	=	*full colour contents*
pc	=	*part-colour contents*
gn	=	*graphic novel*
thbk	=	*trade hardback edition*
tpbk	=	*trade paperback, squarebound, comic size*
Xpgs	=	*number of interior pages*
Mature	=	*recommended for mature readers, may contain nudity, sex and/or extreme violence.*

TITLES ON SALE: FEBRUARY

ARF CARTOONS

O Smut: The Alternative Comic 89 (mthly; various) Adult humour strips featuring a cartoon version of comedian Roy Chubby Brown. Mature. 40pgs pc £1.50

DC THOMSON

O Beano 2896-2899 (wkly; various) Humour comic strips including Dennis the Menace and Gnasher amongst other regulars. 24pgs clr £0.45

O Beano Comic Library Monthly 381-382 (2 per mth; dgst; various) Extra-long comic strips of the favourite Beano characters. 68pgs pc £0.55

O Beano Superstars 73 (mthly; various) One complete comic strip per issue. 36pgs clr £1.10

O Bunty 2087-2090 (wkly; various) Picture and photo strips plus features. 32pgs pc ... £0.65

O Bunty Picture Library 460-461 (2 per mth; dgst; various) Reprint strips. 68pgs b&w £0.55

O Classics from the Comics 22 (mthly; various) Reprinting classic strips. 68pg b&w £1.20

O Commando Action and Adventure Stories 3116-3123 (8 per mth; dgst; various) War strips. 68pgs b&w £0.55

O Dandy 2928-2931 (wkly; various) Humour strips including Desperate Dan and Korky the Cat. 24pgs clr £0.45

O Dandy Comic Library Monthly 357-358 (2 per mth; various) Extra long strips. 68pgs pc £0.55

O Football Picture Story Monthly 282-283 (2 per mth; various) Comic strip soccer. 68pgs b&w £0.55

O Fun Size Beano 8 (mthly; various) **Beano** spin-off book. 68pgs b&w £0.60

O Fun Size Dandy 8 (mthly; various) **Dandy** spin-off book. 68pgs b&w £0.60

O Mandy & Judy Picture Library 282-283 (2 per mth; dgst; various) One full-length strip per issue. 68pg b&w £0.55

FLEDGLING PRODUCTIONS

O Sweet FA Vol 2 #10 (bi-mthly, various) Football humour comic strips and spoof articles. Mature. 52pgs pc £1.25

FLEETWAY

O Buster 80-81 (ftnly; various) Humour strips starring Buster, Chalky, et al. 32pgs clr .. £1.00

O Disney's Big Time 32 & 33 (ftnly; various) Articles, puzzles, photos, games and Disney strips. 52pgs clr £1.20

O Judge Dredd Megazine Vol 3 #39 (mthly; various) The new look **Megazine**,now carrying a "mature readers" label, features Judge Dredd in *No More Jimmy Deans* (Wagner & Hairsine) plus the first part of new a series *Blackheart* (R. Morrison & Quitely) and part one of the reprint of DC Vertigo's acclaimed series, **Preacher** (Ennis and Dillon). Mature readers. 52pgs clr ..... ***price increase*** £2.50

O Sonic the Comic 122-123 (ftnly; various) Comic adventure strips of the Sega stars plus game reviews. 32pgs clr £1.25

O 2000AD 1081-1083 (wkly; various) Adventure anthology with conclusions to *Judge Dredd: Missing* (Wagner & Sullivan); *Durham Red: Scarlet Cantos* (Abnett & Harrison); *Sinister Dexter: Taking the Mick* (Abnett & Yeowell); *Vector 13* (various creators) and *Nicolai Dante: Gulag Apocalyptic* (R. Morrison

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O. **2000AD 1084** (*Special*; various) A 21st birthday celebration issue on sale for two weeks. Featuring bonus length strips: *Dredd: Headbangers* (Wagner & Ronald); *Sinister Dexter: London Town* (Abnett & Staples); *B.L.A.I.R. 1: Charity* (Grant & Davies) and *Nicolai Dante: Cruel Britannia* (R. Morrison & Fraser). Cover by Dermot Power. 48pgs clr . £1.80

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O **Cosmic 8** (mthly; various) Featuring Captain Cosmic – solver of space-type problems! Plus puzzles, competitions and features. 52pgs clr £1.25

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O **Spit 62** (mthly; various) Adult humour comic strips. Mature readers. 52pgs pc £1.45

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O **Action Man 18** (4-wkly; various) Adventures featuring the toy soldier. 28pgs clr £1.40
O **Astonishing Spider-Man 30** (4-wkly; various) Reprints Marvel US Spider-Man titles plus features. 72pgs clr £2.25
O **Doctor Who Magazine 261** (4-wkly; various) Features plus a new comic strip. 52pgs clr £3.00
O **Essential X-Men 31** (4-wkly; various) Anthology reprinting stories from US X-Men titles, plus features. 76pgs clr £2.25
O **Marvel Heroes Reborn 6** (various) Reprinting the revamp of The Fantastic Four and The Avengers. 52pgs clr £1.99
O **Rug Rats 27** (4-wkly; various) Comic strips and features. 24pgs clr £0.95
O **Spectacular Spider-Man 31** (4-wkly; various) Reprint of an issue of a Marvel US Spider-Man title. 36pgs clr £1.40
O **Wolverine Unleashed 19** (4-wkly; various) Reprints of Marvel US strips featuring the popular X-Man. 76pgs clr £2.25

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O **Fun and Games 23 & 24** (ftnly; various) Reprinting Fleetway strips. 24pg clr . £0.99

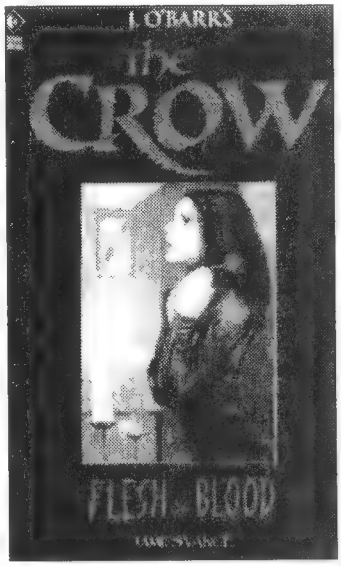
THE REDAN COMPANY

O **I Love to Read Batman 34** (mthly; various) Strips, games and posters. 32pgs clr £1.15

ROCK STEADY

O **TAT Magazine 10** (mthly; various) Adult comic featuring humour strips, spoof features and news. Mature. 36pg clr .. £1.60

TITAN BOOKS



ONE-SHOT O **Crow: Flesh & Blood** (tpbk; Vance & Maleev) Federal conservation officer Iris Shaw's soul cannot rest, as those responsible for her murder killed the unborn child that she was carrying. The native American Indian Crow spirit hears her tortured cry for vengeance and answers it, reanimating Shaw as the new Crow. Mature readers. 96pgs b&w £6.99

ONE-SHOT O **Ghost: Exhuming Elisa** (tpbk; Luke & Reiss + Emberlin) Elisa Cameron is dead, she has been murdered. But she is able to will her body into a material state to become the intangible avenger, Ghost. Elisa journeys to the sub-city known as Necropolis to discover the secrets of her own death. 160pgs clr £12.99

ONE-SHOT O **How to Draw and Sell Comic Strips** (tpbk; Alan McKenzie) From the former editor of **2000AD**, a guide to the art and business of creating comic strips. Contains professional tips on content, layout, style and presentation and step-by-step guides to pencilling, inking and colouring. 144pgs clr £9.99

ONE-SHOT O **JLA: American Dreams** (tpbk; Morrison & Porter) ***Rescheduled from November.*** The reformed JLA faces its toughest challenge yet as it battles against the Devil himself. Guest starring Hitman, Steel and Green Arrow. 128pgs clr £5.99

ONE-SHOT O **Steel: The Forging of a Hero** (tpbk; Simonson & Bogdanove) In the wake of the "death" of Superman, new heroes arose to take his place. Foremost among them was John Henry Irons, who modelled his armour on Superman's costume and battles crime in the streets of Washington DC under the name of Steel. 192pgs clr £12.99

ONE-SHOT O **Superman: The Wedding and Beyond** (tpbk; Jurgens & Kesel + various) A fairytale ending to a famous and enduring love affair, as Clark Kent (Superman) and his fellow **Daily Planet** reporter Lois Lane finally tie the knot. 192pgs clr £9.99

TITAN MAGAZINES

O **Aliens Comic Magazine 4** (mthly; various) Reprint comic strips with features, interviews and competitions. 52pgs clr .. £2.00
O **Babylon 5 Magazine 8** (mthly; various) Features interviews; info on the TV show; comic strips and news. 68pgs clr £3.25
O **Sabrina Comic 5-7** (ftnly; various) Comic strip adventures based on the TV show *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* plus features and photos. 24pgs clr £0.99
O **Simpsons Comic Magazine 12** (mthly; various) This issue, discover who survives the longest in a biosphere – the Simpsons or their next door neighbours, the Flanders. Plus puzzles, games, etc. 52pgs clr £2.00
O **Spawn Comic Magazine 6** (mthly; various) Reprinting Todd McFarlane's **Spawn** with features. 52pgs clr £2.00
O **Star Trek Monthly 37** (various) Includes an interview with *Star Trek*'s original captain, William (Kirk) Shatner as well as *Voyager's* Tom Paris (Robert McNeill) and *Deep Space Nine*'s latest lovebirds, Worf and Dax. Plus behind-the-scenes features, news, video and book reviews, episode guides and competitions. 100pgs clr £3.25
O **X-Files 32** (mthly; various) Features an exclusive interview with Nic Lea who plays ratboy Alex Krycek, plus a special feature on the fourth season cliffhanger *Gethsemane*, and previews of season five episodes. 52pgs clr £2.00

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O **Bastard Bunny in Don't You Know Who I Am?! The Collected Works** (tpbk; Anderson & Smith + Moore) The coolest drug-snorting, megaviolent, club-going psychotic rabbit in the whole world, who hates posers, prats, techno and taxi drivers in book format for the first time. 112pgs b&w £6.99

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Which of the following characters was created by Hunt Emerson?
a) Muffin the Mule
b) Firkin the Cat
c) Shit the Dog

Where did the *Phenomenix* strips first appear?
a) Fortean Times
b) Financial Times
c) Falmouth Times

Aliens Ate My Trousers is published by?
a) Fallabout Comics
b) Roundabout Comics
c) Knockabout Comics

The *Phenomenix* strips are parodies of...
a) Paraplegic phenomena
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c) Paragliding phenomena

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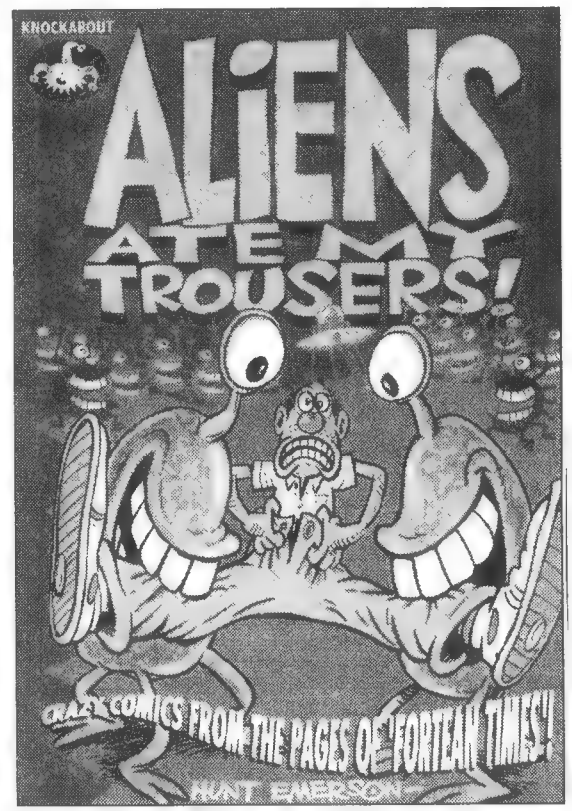
COMICS INTERNATIONAL,
8 TRINITY ROAD, LONDON N2 8JJ, ENGLAND
All entries must be postmarked before March 1st, 1998

CUT OUT COUPON ALONG DOTTED LINE

KNOCKABOUT Comics is offering 25 lucky **CI** readers the chance to each win a copy of its new **Aliens Ate My Trousers** collection of cartoonist Hunt Emerson's *Phenomenix* strips from the **Fortean Times**.

Retailing at £7.99 and on sale March 5, this new 80-page book contains Hunt Emerson's parodies of paranormal phenomena including: *Toads in stones! Rains of fishes! Crop circles! UFOs! Trouser-eating aliens! And nan bread with the face of Elvis!*



*HUNT EMERSON began drawing comics in 1973 with the publication of his **Large Cow Comix** in Birmingham's Streetpress. He went on to produce many self-published comics and a range of comics characters including Firkin the Cat, Dogman and Mr Spoonbiscuit. He has now created ten books for Knockabout Comics. Miles Kington (**The Independent**) calls him "A brilliant free-wheeling cartoonist with a surrealist imagination." **The Times** describes his work as "Mind-blasting free-wheeling stuff." **Time Out** calls him "The funniest and most inventive artist to have emerged from these isles in the past twenty years".*

PUBLISHERS Knockabout Comics were established in 1975, specialising in comic strip humour. Pioneers of the graphic novel in 1978, they continue to publish the best and the most innovative British, American and European comic art. Their full catalogue of titles in print is available from:

Knockabout Comics, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ

NEWS EUROPE

Angouleme birthday celebrations

The world's pre-eminent comics festival, regularly attracting over 150,000 visitors, celebrates 25th birthday with 25 international guests

THE 25th annual Angouleme Comics Festival will be held this year on 22-25 January.

To mark the anniversary, the organisers have arranged for the appearance of 25 internationally-renowned comic artists, including Dave McKean, Billy (**Shi**) Tucci, Charles (**Black Hole**) Burns, and Chris (**Acme Comic Novelty Library**) Ware.

There will also be a strong representation from the UK small press/indie scene, led by the Franco-Scottish publisher Metaphrog (**Strange Weather Lately, The Maze**) and Cloud Nine Comics, which publishes John Weilding's **Goathland** diaries.

Also featured will be a display of original comic art from 19 artists from around the globe, including America's Todd McFarlane, Art Spiegelman and David Mazzucchelli.

Work by Horacio Altuna and José Munoz from Argentina and Italy's Sergio Toppi will also feature, alongside pages from the South African **Madame Eve** strip, writer/artist Rico Schacherl's look at the end of apartheid.

An additional highlight will be the first viewing of the late Belgian artist Hergé's drawings for his last, unfinished **Tintin** album.

An exhibition is also being made of the cartoons of the pioneering Moscow-born French artist Emmanuel Poiré (1858-1909), who worked under the pseudonym Caran d'Ache, derived from the Russian word for pencil. His work appeared regularly in **Le Figaro**, and in 20 comic albums.

Eisner tribute from France

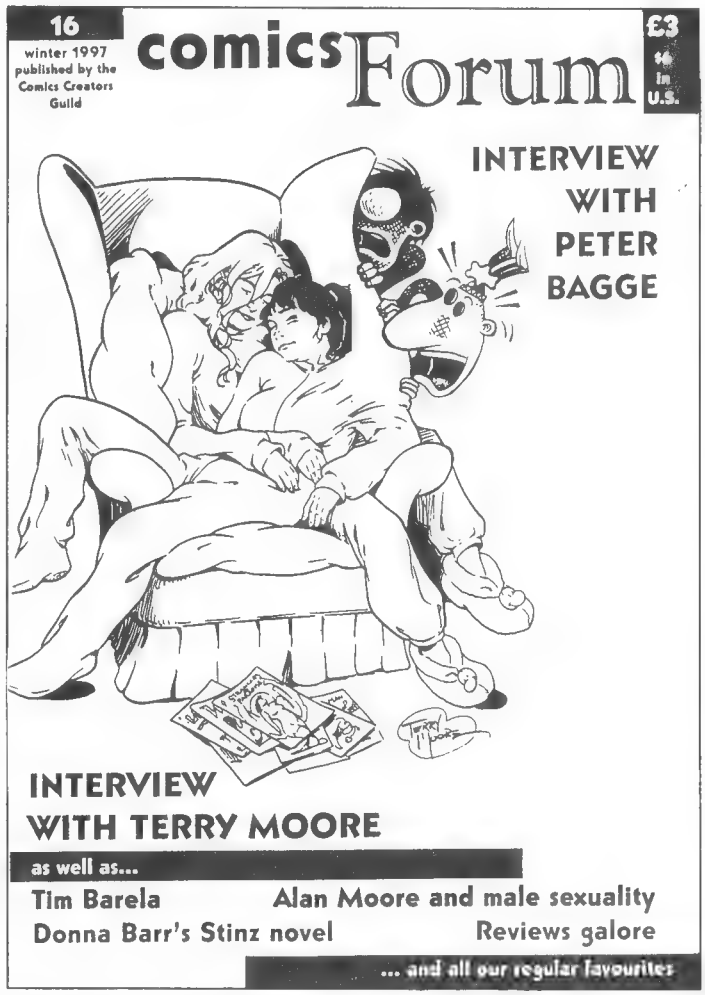
PLG is an annual French publication from the Montrouge-based Society for the Promotion of Young Creators and Comics.

Now in its 20th year, the latest 84-page, perfect-bound issue is published this month cover featuring and starring the work of Will Eisner.

The 10 page interview, printed both in French and in English, is peppered with pencilled sketches and finished art and rounded out by a detailed bibliography.

In addition to a wide range of fascinating comic strips, the issue also features a Tardi index, and a large selection of American and European comics reviews.

For ordering information, fax: France (0033) 1 46 55 66 04.



*WITH its 16th issue, **Comics Forum**, the quarterly comics review published by the Comics Creators Guild, has moved up to a new format, becoming a handsome squarebound 68-page title with card covers. Maintaining its eclectic content, from the esoteric camp of 1960s DC Comics to contemporary indie titles, the current £3 ($6) issue features interviews with **Strangers in Paradise**'s Terry Moore and **Hate**'s Peter Bagge, plus Donna Barr's continuing **Stinz** serialisation and "Alan Moore and male sexuality".*

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INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

The following listing is of the world's major comics festivals and conventions. For further information, call the organisers on the phone, fax or e-mail numbers provided. Or to view updates, contact them on the websites where detailed.

Organisers' estimates of the attendance at their previous event is detailed in brackets.

January 22-25: FRANCE

ANGOULEME BD (1997 est: 167,300). Organisers: Festival International de la Bande Dessinee, 2 Place d l'Hotel de Ville, 16000 Angloulem, France. Tel: 0033 5 45 97 86 50. Fax: 0033 5 45 95 99 28. Website: http://bdangouleme.com

February 21-22: ITALY

FUMETTO E IMMAGINAZIONE, Bologna (1997 est: not available). Organisers: ARCI, Bologna. Tel: 0039 51 521939.

March 21-22: ENGLAND

MEMORABILIA '98, Birmingham. (1997 est: 12,000) Organisers: Made in Heaven, 19 Broughton Rd, Biggar, Scotland ML12 6AN. Tel/fax: 01899 221 622. Website: http://www.memorabilia.co.uk

UKCAC 98, Manchester. (1997 est: not available) Organisers: Rusty Staples, PO Box 146, Glasgow G1 5RN. Website: http://www.ukcac.digitalalba.com

April: ITALY

LUCCA COMICS (1997 est: 40,000). Organisers: Lucca Comics, Via della Cavallerizza 11, 55100 Lucca, Italy. Tel: 0039 583 48522. Fax: 0039 583 91203. e-mail: comic&games@lunet. it. Website: http://www.comune.lucca.it/COMICS. Date TBA.

May: SPAIN

BARCELONA SALO DEL COMIC. Details to be announced

May 15-17: FINLAND

ARCTIC COMICS FESTIVAL. (1997 est: 5,000-7,000) Organisers: Arctic Comics Festival, Rautatienkatu 13B, Fin-90100 Oulu, Finland. Tel: 00358 8 3121 540. Fax: 00358 8 3121541. e-mail: graafinen.studio@koskela.netppl.fi

July 17-19: UNITED STATES

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO CON. (1997 est: not available) Organisers: Wizard Press, 151 Wells Ave., Congers, NY 10920-2064. Tel: 001 608 226 0200. Website: http://www.wizard press.com

August 13-16: UNITED STATES

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL '98, San Diego, CA (1997 est: 35,000). Organisers: Comic-Con International, PO Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112-8458. Tel: 001 619 491 2475. Fax: 001 619 544 0743.

August 29-30: SCOTLAND

MEMORABILIA '98, Glasgow. (first) Organisers: Made in Heaven, 19 Broughton Rd, Biggar, Scotland ML12 6AN. Tel/fax: 01899 221 622. Website: http://www.memorabilia.co.uk

November 7-8: ENGLAND

MEMORABILIA '98, Birmingham. (1997 est: 12,000) Organisers: Made in Heaven, 19 Broughton Rd, Biggar, Scotland ML12 6AN. Tel/fax: 01899 221 622. Website: http://www.memorabilia.co.uk

November: ITALY (TBA)

LUCCA COMICS (1997 est: 40,000). Organisers: Lucca Comics, Via della Cavallerizza 11, 55100 Lucca, Italy. Tel: 0039 583 48522. Fax: 0039 583 91203. e-mail: comic&games @lunet.it. Website: http://www.comune.lucca.it/COMICS.

Meanwhile... the National Lottery-funded anthology

AS A RESULT of a successful application for a National Lottery Award, 1998 will see the regular publication of **Meanwhile ...** a quarterly anthology comic from Soaring Penguin Publications, set up to showcase UK talent.

Each issue will contain the work of over 15 artists and writers, and UK based comic creators are invited to submit their work to Soaring Penguin.

The only criteria is that submissions should be of a professional quality, and will need to meet the high standard set by editors Howard Stangroom and John Anderson.

A successful pilot issue of **Meanwhile...** was published last year with a full colour cover by Hunt Emerson. A second issue, set for release in March, will feature a cover art by Mark Buckingham, to be coloured by John Higgins' Turmoil Colour Studios.

Soaring Penguin Publications is based at 2 Hambledon Road, Southfields, London SW18 5UB.

It is recommended that creators send only photocopies of their work.

*CHAOS! Comics, the Scotsdale Arizona-based publisher of **Lady Death** and **Evil Ernie**, has signed an agreement with Modern Graphics Distribution to have its titles on sale in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and France. These will appear in European shops in January, to be followed shortly thereafter by German and French translations. Director of licensing Marja van der Weerdt commented, "A great translation must not only accurately convey the meaning of the words, it must capture the spirit of the story. Modern Graphics has demonstrated a unique ability in this area."*

Senior Fleetway editor moves on

FORMER **2000AD** editor Richard Burton was one of the casualties in the current redefining of UK publisher Egmont Fleetway.

A mainstay of early British comics fandom, he is due to leave the company in February.

From 1973 to 1980, Burton published the award-winning **Comic Media News**. A highly professional newszine, it was in many ways a forerunner to **Comics International**.

In 1978, he was also responsible for co-creating the prestigious comicbook Oscars, the Eagle Awards.

In 1979, having served an "apprenticeship" at Marvel UK under editor-in-chief Dez Skinn, Burton joined what was to become Egmont/Fleetway, IPC's comics section.

During almost 20 years with the division, he survived three owners, 10 managing directors and countless reorganisations.

It was with the current owner that he created and edited **Sonic the Comic**, one of the most successful titles in recent years.

Among the many creators who produced their first work for **2000AD** during Burton's tenure were Simon Bisley, Alan Moore, Grant Morrison, Mark Millar, Steve Yeowell and Alan Davis.

Burton told **Comics International** he plans to maintain his comic associations and is currently negotiating with a number of publishers.

World News: SCANDINAVIA

Comics fest thrives in Arctic Circle

CERTAINLY the world's most remote comics event is Finland's Arctic Comics Festival.

Attracting 5,000-7,000 visitors, it has been held each year since 1981 in Kemi, a small town in Lapland, North East Finland, near the Arctic Circle, where winters are entirely dark, but summer is constant daylight.

Despite its remote location, previous festivals have attracted considerable media coverage and have featured prominent comic artists and writers including Robert Crumb, Neil Gaiman, Hunt Emerson and Gilbert Shelton.

This year's festival, which celebrates 100 years of Finnish comics, will take place on the weekend of May 15-17, and will feature original art exhibitions alongside lectures, live action and animated films and concerts.

Publishers and booksellers will be represented, and the annual awards ceremony will take place during the festival, along with the announcement of the results of the national comic strip competition.

In the past this has been a spawning ground for many of Scandinavia's finest cartoonists.

Another highlight is sure to be the regular competition of snow sculptures of well known comics characters.

World News: SOUTH EAST ASIA

Hong Kong comic expo

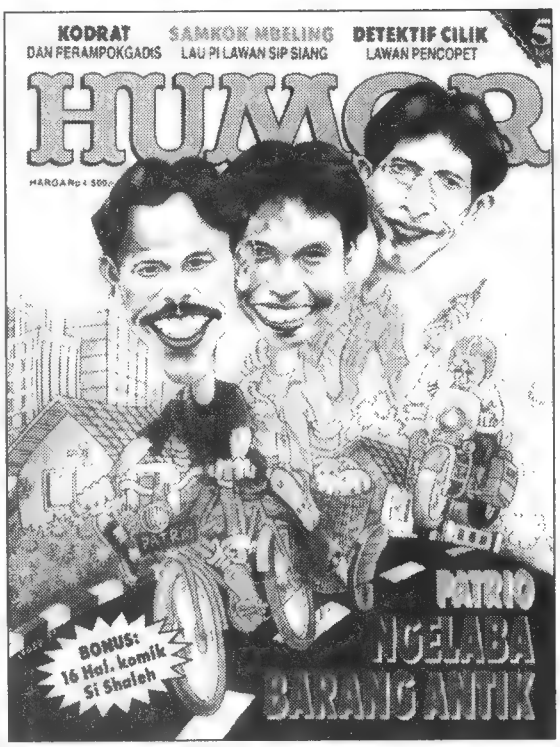
THE 1998 Hong Kong Arts Festival is set to include a special exhibition of Euro-comics through the British Council.

In conjunction with the EU Working Group for Culture, the British Council is currently contacting UK-based publishers who would like their material featured.

The objective of this exhibition is to showcase the diversity and quality of European comic strips, and will be an interactive event comprising elements such as film screenings, lectures, live art demonstrations, a reading room for comics browsing and a core exhibition from France.

The British Council is hoping to obtain around 150-200 different titles for display.

Publishers wishing to submit samples should write to Paul Bryan at: Publishing Promotion, The British Council, Bridgewater House, 58 Whitworth St, Manchester M1 6BB.



*INDONESIA has developed an interesting alternative to the often prohibitive cost of licensing well-known publications for local editions. While Britain, Italy and China failed with their own editions of **Mad Magazine**, the Jakarta-based Gedung Temprint publishing company is spoofing **Mad**. Its current fifth issue (cover above) also pokes fun at another Warner Bros property with the eight-page strip Superjambel, starring a certain Man of Steel.*

Comics International is looking for foreign correspondents and invites submissions *(address on page 3)*

INTERNATIONAL RETAIL INDEX

AUSTRALIA

• **Arcadia Unbound**, 267 Forest Rd., Hurstville, New South Wales 2220. Mon-Wed & Fri 10.30-7, Thurs 10.30-8, Sat 10-4, Sun 12-3 (US imp & back, manga, gn, merch, CCG, SF-horror-fantasy bks & mags, kits & supplies) 0061 2 9585 1489

• **Books & Bounties/Comics Haven**, 157A Charters Towers Road, Hermit Park, Townsville, Queensland 4812. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-4 (US imp & back, manga, gn, merch, RPG, CCG) e-mail: Comicshaven@ Bigpond.com.au 0061 7 4779 2408

• **Kinda Lotsa Comics and Stuff**, Shop 4, 503-511 King St, Newtown, Sydney, New South Wales. Mon-Sat 10.30-7.30 (US back, toys, merch, non-sport cards) 0061 2 9565 1054

• **Known Space Books**, 1st Floor, 108 Gawler Place, Adelaide, SA 5000. Wed-Sat 12-6 (US & UK back, **2000AD** specialist, SF bks) 0061 8 8223 4304

• **Phantom Zone**, 207 George St., Liverpool 2170, New South Wales. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, bks, merch, manga, RPG, action figures, models) 0061 2 9601 2622

• **The Vault**, PO Box A1099, Sydney South 1235. (US back issues, trading cards) e-mail: the vault@hotmail.com. 0061 2 9541 2948

AUSTRIA

• **Comic Treff**, Getreidemarkt 2-4, 1010 Vienna. Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-1 (US imp & back, manga, gn, CCG, frgn-German, trading cards) 0043 11 586 76 27

FRANCE

• **Dangereuses Visions**, 83 rue de la Monnaie, 59800 Lille. Mon-Sat 10-12.30 & 2-7.30. (US imp; manga; gn; RPG & CCG; trading cards; merch) 0033 3200 60607

• **L'Antre des Dragons**, 56 rue de Loup, 33000 Bordeaux. Mon-Sat 10-1 & 2-7. (US imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch, video) e-mail: dragons@atlantel.fr 0033 55 65 17378

GERMANY

• **Black Dog Comics**, Luxemburger Strasse 6, D-13353 Berlin. Mon-Fri 11-6.30, Sat 11-2. (US imp & back, gn, trading cards) 0049 30 453 1204

• **Grober Unfug**, Tossener Strasse 32-33, 10961 Berlin. Mon-Sat 11-7. (US imp & back, manga, gn, CCG, merch, trading cards) 0049 30 6940 1490

GREECE

• **Metropolis Comics**, 94 Metropoleos St, 54622 Thessaloniki. Mon-Sat 10.30-3.30 & 7.30-11.30. (US imp & back, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch, frgn) e-mail: metrocom@classic.diavlos.gr 0030 3 193 7775

• **Solaris**, 6 Botasi Str., 10682, Athens. Mon/Wed/Sat 9-3.30, Tue/Thu/Fri 9-2.30 & 5-8.30. (US imp & back, manga, gn, trading cards, merch) 0030 1 384 1065

HUNGARY

• **Troll Kepregenyta'r**, Terez Krt 13, Budapest 1067. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1. (US imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch) 0036 1 322 6026

ITALY

• **Avalon**, via Battisti 9/b, Bologna. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1 & 2-7.30. (US imp & back, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch) 0039 51 234459

• **Avalon**, via Pedriali 21, Forli. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1 & 2-7. (US imp & back, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch) 0039 543 33523

• **Avalon**, via Settembrini 20, Milan. Mon 3.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 11-7.30. (US imp & back, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch) 0039 2 29400410

• **Avalon**, via Foscolo 3, Padova. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1 & 2-7. (US imp & back, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch) 0039 49 658290

• **Avalon**, via Bissolati 68, Rome. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1 & 2-7. (US imp & back, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, trading cards, merch)

• **Avalon**, via Magenta 0, Torino. Mon 3.30-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1 & 2-7.30. (US imp & back, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch, trading cards) 0039 11 5617252

SOUTH AFRICA

• **Euroniag**, Shop 79A, East Rand Mall, Boksburg, Johannesburg. Mon-Sun 9-10. (US imp & back, manga, gn, CCG, trading cards, merch) 0027 11 896 3773

SPAIN

• **Gigamesh**, RDA San Pedro 53, 08010 Barcelona. Mon-Sat 10-1.30 & 4.30-8 (US imp, gn, manga, RPG, CCG, merch) 0034 3 246 6359

SWEDEN

• **Comics Heaven**, Stora Nygatan 23, 11127 Stockholm. Mon-Fri 10-6.30, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-4. (US imp, US back, gn, merch) 0046 8 202516

Retailers

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RETAIL INDEX

Key to abbreviations used:

imp	= air imported new issues	u/g	= underground comics
back	= back issues stocked	frgn	= foreign language titles
s-p	= small press & fanzines	gn	= graphic novels & trade paperback editions
merch	= trading cards, videos, T-shirts, posters, models, etc	STO	= standing order service, (new comics reserved)
ind	= US independent comics (non-newsstand & manga)	RPG	= role playing games
Brit	= British comics & albums	CCG	= customisable card games

CENTRAL LONDON

■ **Adventureland Inc**, 309 Railton Rd, Herne Hill, London SE24 0JN. Tues-Sat 11-6.30; Sun 12-4. (imp, back, gn, merch, STO, collectable toys, kits, games, videos) 0171 346 0020

■ **Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11. Mon-Thur 10-5.45; Fri 10-6.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-3.30 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, CCG) 0171-924 3609

■ **Book & Comic Exchange**, 14 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11. Mon-Sun: 10-8. Nothing legal refused (back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn) 0171 229 8420

■ **Comic Showcase**, 76 Neal St, London WC2. Mon - Wed 10-6; Thurs - Sat 10-7; Sun 12-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, cartoon books, original art) 0171-240 3664

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DG. Mon-Wed & Sat 10-6; Thurs & Fri 10-7 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, film & tv) 0171 836 4179

■ **Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (opposite British Museum) 10-6 7 days a week inc Bank Hols. Late Thur-Fri til 7 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, largest range of newspaper strip compilations in UK) 0171 636 1011

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; late Thurs + Fri to 7. (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film-tv fantasy, horror, body art, subculture, STO) 0171 485 9320

■ **Mighty World of Comicana 2**, 237 Shaftsbury Ave, London WC1. Mon-Wed 10.30-6.30; Thur-Sat 10.00-7; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, tv-film & fantasy, gn, STO) 0171 836 5630

■ **Platinum Age Comics/Bayswater Books**, 27a Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3EL. Mon-Sun 11-7 (but sometimes till midnight!) (back, ind, u/g, general 2nd hand books, search service) 0171 402 7398

■ **Zephyr TUC Comic Mart**, Congress Centre, 23 Great Russell St, London WC1. Sun Jan 18; noon-4pm (free; imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, RPG, CCG) 0151 638 1502

OUTER LONDON

NEW **A Place in Space**, 56/57 The Inshops, Church St., Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (comics, SF bks, Brit, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG, CCG, a/wk, accessories) 0181 686 2400

■ **Altered Images**, 3 Eagle Star House, 299-301 High St, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1LG. Mon-Wed & Fri 10.30-5.30; Thur 10-7; Sat 9-6 (imp back ind merch Brit gn STO) 0181 770 3815

■ **Atomic Comics**, 1112 High Rd, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10 -6 excl Fri 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art) 0181-597 8547

■ **Blue Silver Comics**, 32 Northfield Ave, West Ealing, London W13 9RL. Mon-Sun 10.00-6.00 excl Wed 10-2 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO) Website: www.bluesilver.com 0181 840 9446

■ **Book Gallery: The Illustrated Book Shop**, 11-17 Stockwell St, Greenwich, London SE10 9JN. Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat & Sun 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, 2nd hand & new SF-horror-fantasy bks, art bks, bargain bks, remainders, art prints) 0181 853 2151

■ **Book Palace**, 83 Church Road, Crystal Palace, London SE. Mon-Sun 12-6 (imp back ind gn 2nd hand/new SF-horror-fantasy bks art bks, bargain bks, remainders 0181 768 0022

■ **Calamity Comics**, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, RPG, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, videos) 0181-427 3831

■ **Comic Shack**, 720 High Rd, Leytonstone, London E11 3NN. Mon-Thur 9.30-5.30; Fri-Sat 9.30-6.30; Sun 11-5 + by appointment (imp gn back hbks) 0181-539 7260 or 555 9303(eve)

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 175 North End, Croydon CR0 1TP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; Thurs till 7. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, Brit, STO, CCGs, film/tv mags, sf/fantasy bks, videos) 0181 688 7190

■ **Kent Comics**, 42 Well Hall Rd, Eltham, London SE9 6SF. Mon Tues Thur Sat 10-5, Fri 10-6, closed Wed & Sun (imp, back, merch, gn, STO, CCG) 0181 850 5779

■ **Krypton Komics**, 252 High Road, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur-Fri 9.30-7; Sat 9-6. Tube: Seven Sisters Rd. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO) 0181-801 5378

■ **Mighty World of Comicana**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10.30-6.30; Thur-Sat 10-7; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g tv-film & fantasy gn STO) 0181-449 5535

■ **They Walk Among Us**, 32 Union Court, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, fantasy/s-f/horror bks, STO, sub-culture) Phone/fax 0181 948 8476

■ **30th Century Comics** *is now at:* 18 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1JP. Mon-Wed 10.30-6, Thur-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 9-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, merch, action figures & toys, ind, gn, STO, 2nd hand genre bks) 0181 788 2052

■ **Time Trek**, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 0181 313 0677

SOUTH EAST

■ **ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's St, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp back s-p merch u/g Brit ind gn STO RPG rock t-shirts) 01206 561912

■ **The American Comic Shop**, 1 Church St, Chatham, Kent ME4 4BS (just off High St). Mon-Thurs 10-5.30, Fri 9.30-5.30, Sat 9-5.30. (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, Trek & Star Wars merch, ind, original artwork) 01634 817410

■ **Andy's Comic Cavern**, Windsor Open Market (back of Woolworth's), Bachelors Acre, Windsor. Saturdays only 7.30-4.00 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) Free delivery for Windsor & Slough area. 01753 621978

■ **Calamity Comics 2**, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford, Herts WD1 2LA. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; closed Wed; Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, videos) 01923 249293

■ **Cartoon Shop**, 22 Southernhay, Town Centre, Basildon, Essex SS14 1EL. Mon - Sat 10.00-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 01268 534194

■ **Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 01473 233017

■ **Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements St, Oxford. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO) 01865-723680

■ **David's Comic Shop**, 5 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.45; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO, gn) 01273 691012

■ **Daydream Nation Trading Cards at Hive**, 6 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL. Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00 (trading cards, CCGs, sports, Ultra-Pro) 01273 687 802

■ **Escape**, Cheapside, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7AG (near Odeon Cinema). Tues-Sat 10.00-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO, film & tv) 01734 575131

■ **Fantastic Store Ink**, 14 Gardner Street, Brighton BN1 1UP. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-6. (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, u/g, STO, original art) 01273 670012

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 60 Burleigh St. Cambridge CB1 1DJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, CCG, videos, sf/fantasy bks, tv/film mags, merch) 01223 301 666

■ **Incognito Comic Shop**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv merch) phone/fax: 01227 785898

■ **Incognito Comic Shop**, 21 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv merch) phone/fax: 01622-683642

■ **Into the Void**, 324-325 Chartwell North, Top Floor, Victoria Plaza, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5SR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp back merch ind Brit u/g gn STO)

■ **Kingdom Comics**, Chelmsford Covered Market. Thurs-Fri 8.30-4; Sat 8.30-5 (imp, back, merch, gn, STO) 01245 350383

■ **MTCC Trading Cards**, c/o In Retrospect, 107-109 Orpington High St, Orpington, Kent BR6 0LG. Mon-Sat 10-5. (trading cards, Trek-Disney-fantasy-etc) 01689 835700

■ **Off World: The Sci-Fi Store**, Unit 20, Romford Shopping Halls, Market Place, Romford, Essex RM1 3AT. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (merch s-p imp STO CCG; specialists in Trek, Star Wars & s-f collectables) 01708 765633

■ **Reservoir Frogs at Hive**, 6 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 1AL. Mon-Sat 8.30-6.00; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, u/g, ind) phone/fax: 01273 687802

■ **Slough Computers**, 2 Windsor Road, Slough, Berks. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, ind, STO, cards, s/h computer games) 01753 521594

■ **Tall Toad Comics**, Amersham Market - every Tues; Hemel Hempstead market - every Thursday, High Wycombe market - every Friday & Saturday. (imp, back, merch, gn, STO). 01442 250653

■ **Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 -5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits) 01227 453226

■ **Whatever Comics**, 5 Middle Row, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits) 01622 681041

MIDLANDS

■ **A Collectors Dream**, 16 Park St., Kingswinford DY6 9LX, West Midlands. Mon-Sat (closed Thur) 9.30-5.30 (imp back s-p merch ind Brit u/g gn STO film/tv fantasy glamour horror ppbks toys videos. Buy-sell-exchange) 01384 287234

■ **Abstract Sprocket**, St Benedicts Indoor Market, 21 St Benedicts St, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4PF. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 01603 292315

■ **Another World**, 42/43 Main Centre (opp Wilkinsons) Derby. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, t-shirts, rock & TV-film memorabilia, computer games) 01332 206606

■ **Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0116 2515266

■ **Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0115 9484122

■ **Comic Connections**, 66 Calthorpe St., Banbury, Oxon OX16 8EX. Mon-Sat 10-5. (imp, back, ind, CCG, STO, merch, model/resin kits inc wholesale) ph/fax: 01295 268989

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 01234 218984

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 26 Town Centre, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0LD. Mon, Tues, Thur-Fri 10.30-6, Sat 9-5.30. Sun 12-4 (imp back s-p merch ind Brit gn STO RPG) 01707 256788

■ **Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (closed Wed) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 01462 480018

■ **Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon-Sat 9- 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 01782 279294/fax 01782 202381

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 31 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CV1 1HF. Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00; Thurs till 7.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, film/ tv material, sf/horror bks; CCG, RPG) 01203 229672

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 129 Middle Walk, Broadmarsh Centre, Nottingham NG1 7LN. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film/tv, videos, STO) 0115 958 4706

■ **Ground Zero**, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, STO, accessories) 01623 22017

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 0121 643 0143

■ **Nowhere Comics**, 3 Kings Court, Bridge St (next to Bridge St Records) Walsall. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, frgn, accessories) 01922 643352

■ **Page 45**, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. Mon-Sat 9-6. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, indie ¿comix & indie merch specialists, manga) 0115 9508045

■ **Phoenix Comix**, 29 Abington Square, Northampton NN1 4AE. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, CCG & action figures) 01604 602311

■ **Time Zone** *is now at:* 31 Castle St, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 2BW. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, CCG) 01743 365192

NORTH WEST

■ **Alpha Omega Comics**, 33-35 Library St, Wigan, Lancs. WN1 1NN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp back merch ind gn STO) 01942 233035

■ **Comic Zone**, 4 Church Rd, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5NT (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG, Brit) 01606 49255

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 92 Bold St, Liverpool L1 4HR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; Thur to 7.00 (imp, back merch, ind, Brit, u/g, STO, film/tv material, sf & horror bks, RPG, CCG) 0151 707 1491

■ **Forbidden Planet Megastore**, 65 Oldham St, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1JR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, sf-fantasy bks, cards, stills, LF film bks, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0161 839 4777

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Rd, Blackpool FY4 1DW. 10-5.30 Mon-Tues Thurs-Sat (& Sundays June-Oct inc.); Wed 1.00-3.30 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, media collectors' items) 01253-348321 fax: 407813

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, PR1 9EE. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG) 01772-204287

■ **Time Zone**, 3 Academy Place, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 2NR. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, CCG) 01925 651185

■ **Worlds Apart**, 58-60 Lime St (city centre), Liverpool. Mon-Sat 10-6 excl Fri 10-7 (imp, back, ind, merch, s-p, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy film mags) 0151 707 0839

■ **Zephyr Comic Mart**, Concert Hall, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool. Next mart: Saturday Dec 27; 11-4pm (75p; imp, back, gn, merch ind Brit u/g RPG CCG) 0151 638 1502

NORTH EAST

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Dr Who, Trek) 01642 249143

■ **Comic Carnage**, 22 Portland St., Lincoln LN5 7JX Mon-Fri (excl Tues-Wed; closed) 9.30-4; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 10.30-4 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO) 01522 520087

■ **Comicville**, Ground Floor, 54 The Arcade, The Piece Hall, Halifax HX1 1RE, Yorkshire. Tues-Fri 9.30-5; Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits, toys, Who, Trek, videos) 01422 351119

■ **Comicville**, 24 Imperial Arcade, Huddersfield HD1 2BR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO, RPG, models, Star Wars, videos) 01484 455044

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 30 Eastgate, The Headrow, Leeds LS2 7JL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, media-tv-film mags, T-shirts, posters, toys, kits, cards, badges, stills, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 0113 242 6325

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 59 Grainger St., Newcastle NE1 5JE. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, film/tv mags, fantasy/sf bks, videos) 0191 261 9173

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 9.15- 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror mags, newspaper strip bks) 0114 276 9475

■ **Galaxy 4**, 493 Glossop Road, Broomhill, Sheffield S10 2QE. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, sp, merch, ind, gn, STO, Dr Who & Star Wars specialists, tv ppbks) 0114 268 4976

■ **The Last Picture Show**, 38-39 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thurs 10-8, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-7, Sun 11-5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, CCG, film/tv/rock memorabilia) 0114 256 9604/ fax 0114 255 3399

■ **Off-World Comics**, 200 Park View, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3QP. Mon-Thu 10-5.30; Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, CCG) 0191 251 2288

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, Star Trek items) 0114 275 8905

■ **Travelling Man**, 23 Headingley Lane, Hyde Park Corner, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BL. Mon-Sat 10.30-5.45 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG, CCG) 0113 278 0417

■ **Travelling Man**, Unit 8/9 The Corn Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BR. Mon-Thur 10-5.30, Fri-Sat 9-5.30, Sun 11-5 (imp back merch ind STO RPG CCG) 0113 242 7227

■ **The Twilight Zone** *is now at:* 69 Godwin St, Bradford, Yorkshire. Mon-Sat 10.30-5.30 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) 01274 745567

■ **Travelling Man**, 54 Goodramgate, York YO1 2LF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG, CCG) 01904 628787

WEST COUNTRY

■ **American Dream Comics**, Unit 2, 17 Pickwick Road, Corsham, Wilts SN13 9BQ. Mon-Thurs 10.00-5.00, Fri & Sat 9.00-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, original art, hobby kits, CDs) 01249 701647

■ **Area 51**, 143 Gloucester Rd, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp back ind gn merch STO RPG u/g Brit original art) 0117 924 4655

■ **Code X**, 1 Lansdowne Cres, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 1RU. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist) 01202 293054

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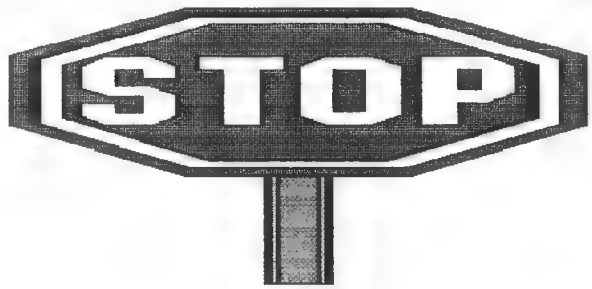

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MEDIAFILE

***CI** associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at coverage of comics in the media*

STAN LEE, still the West's most widely-recognised comics creator, broke cover in December and talked to a Los Angeles-based magazine, **New Times**, about the moribund state of the group he helped towards market domination then watched decline into bankruptcy [25.12.97].

Marvel Entertainment's headlong tumble into terminal debt has slowed down, and it is still selling comics – although it has only 30% of the market share, according to recent data.

But the question of the company's ownership hangs in the balance. By definition, Lee's continuing role depends on majority shareholders.

The **New Times** feature [31.12.97], titled *The Fall and Rise of Marvel Comics*, seemed at first an attempt to put a positive spin on Marvel's condition. Lee, scrupulously uncritical as ever, would not ame and shame. But there was hint of desperation in his nsistence, mid-crisis, that there would be a happy ending.

Talking about the bankruptcy – which is uniquely tied to the issue of ownership – Lee sounded as if he were convincing himself that bankruptcy *could* be overcome – with hard graft.

"[The bankruptcy] is troubling in that I wish it didn't exist. It hasn't affected us in that we're still doing the work we've always done. But once we're up and running, we'll be bigger than ever. Even during this time, we've hired a lot of new writers and artists who are so wonderful," Lee told **New Times**.

He added that the Marvel film and television projects which were "finally getting off the ground" would bring "both viability and revenue".

Theatre of hard times

But for whom? For Ronald Perelman, who has so comprehensively hacked out Marvel's capital? Or for Carl Icahn, the maverick financier whose personalised battle with Perelman has made big theatre on Wall Street and hard times in the comics business?

Lee's publisher in the Sixties met every idea he proposed (including the Hulk) with disbelief but then still let him go ahead. A pussycat, but with the judgement to see Lee knew what he was doing with his reinvention of the superhero genre.

Asked how he would reposition Marvel to regain market share, Lee's response betrayed a touch of impatience, as if the solutions to the company's troubles lay within his grasp but not withhin his brief.

"Just be... better"

Instead of trying to style itself as "younger, older, grittier or tamer than DC, Marvel should simply tell better stories and have better artwork". Emphasising that comics must have the excitement which attracted readers during the Sixties, Lee added: "Make it a page-turner. Good writing and artwork are the best gimmicks you could have. If Shakespeare and Michelangelo could collaborate on a strip, imagine how great that would be?

"What Marvel needs to do to move into the future is rely on the trick that worked during the Sixties. I never had an age of audience in mind. I tried to write comics that a kid could understand but into which an adult could see more deeply."

He admitted that it was not an easy tightrope to walk, but said: "It can be done, and I like to think we did it in the Sixties and we can do it again."

Astonishing-Man

Lee's aplomb is astonishing, given Marvel's circumstances. And if he could turn around the company's comics sales, that would be equally astonishing.

The reason why his Sixties comics were so successful was because they reflected a wider social change and the ideas of a new, younger generation.

But can Stan Lee, now 75 years old, operate in today's much more sophisticated, competitive and risky market? The idea of appealing simultaneously to all ages is laudable, but it requires the sort of creative talent Marvel seemed happy to jettison in recent cutbacks.

Even if Lee *did* convert Marvel's executives to the idea of value-added comics, it is still a moot point whether the company could raise the financial, creative and intellectual capital needed to get it back on its feet now.

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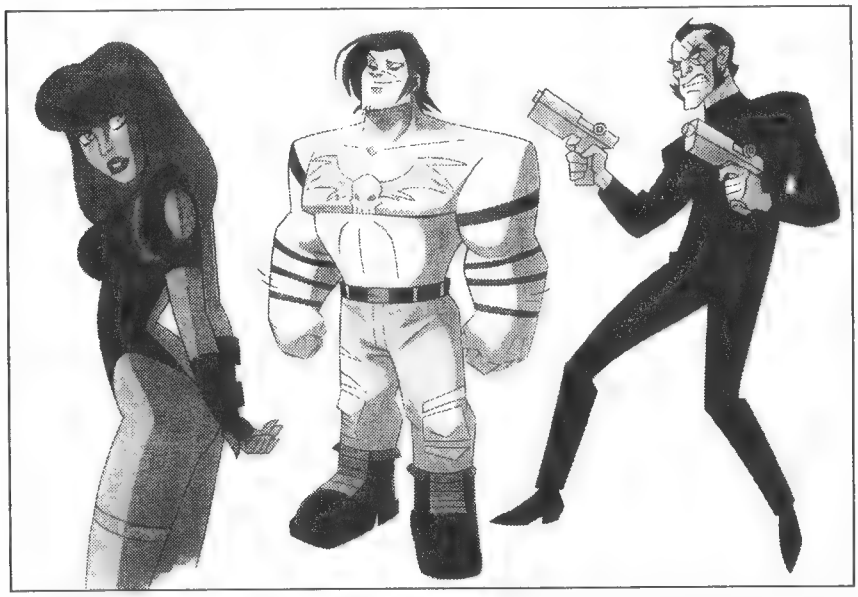
FRAME TO FRAME

The comics medium has had a strong interaction with film and television for as long as each has existed, inspired by licence or plagarism. Mike Conroy looks at the latest events.



ABOVE: From the direct-to-video Gen[13] movie: Fairchild, Grunge and John Lynch, who starts out as an International Operations agent and becomes the team's mentor.

Gen[13] direct-to-video movie nears completion

THE DIRECT-to-video *Gen[13]* animated movie is currently being readied for a spring release.

Based on the 1994 Gen[13] mini-series, the movie is written, produced and directed by Kevin Altieri.

Reporting that the film was nearing completion, Altieri said, "It's not like the light at the end of the tunnel, it's like just being ejected from the tunnel." He added, "It's like giving birth – and it's gonna be a big baby."

Using the original mini-series as its foundation, the video focus mainly on team members Roxy, Fairchild and Grunge.

"It's a coming-of-age story about a girl (Fairchild) who suddenly gets the body of Racquel Welch and can crush tanks," Altieri said. "A clandestine agency tries to create super-heroes and they choose teenagers to turn into super-heroes, thinking they can control them. But, for course, they remain teenagers and they can't control them."

Produced by WildStorm Pictures and distributed by Walt Disney's Hollywood Pictures, *Gen[13]* will probably be rated PG-13.

Referring to the HBO video release that has sold in excess of half a million units, Altieri said, "Obviously they're looking at the success of *Spawn*."

"About a year ago if you were asking about a PG-13 or R-rated cartoon, all the distributors would say, 'No, you can't sell that stuff.' That's changed," he explained.

The voice cast features Alicia *(Mr. Holland's Opus)* Witt as Caitlin Fairchild, Flea of Jane's Addiction as Grunge, *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*'s E.G. Daly as Freefall and John deLancie (Q on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) as Lynch.

Among the villains are *Star Wars*' Mark Hamill as Threshold, Lauren (*The Nanny*) Lane as Ivana and Cloris (*Phyllis*) Leachman as Helga.

Captain America gets animated

IN PRODUCTION for an autumn US premiere is a 13-episode *Captain America* animated TV series.

With one of the episodes detailing his origin, the series will feature a slightly older Bucky than depicted in the comic.

"We all had problems that Bucky was a 12-year-old guy who could deck people, so we made the decision that Bucky was going to be 17 years old, and Cap 24 or 25," said producer Will Meugniot. "Bucky is going to be a bit younger than the military guys. Cap will still be old enough that it doesn't feel odd when he's flying an airplane or driving a motorcycle."

IN BRIEF

Return of Wonder Woman

WITH filming scheduled to start in February, Warner Bros has a live action *Wonder Woman* TV movie in pre-production.

Produced by Deborah Joy Levine, the movie is intended to serve as a pilot for a proposed new series. Levine's track record includes being the creators of the *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* TV show.

With the memorable Lynda Carter in the title role, a live action *Wonder Woman* TV series was first broadcast between 1976 and 1979.

Razor for TV

CREATOR Everette Hartsoe told *Frame to Frame* that his violent blade-wielding heroine Razor was under option for a potential TV series with producer Jeff Most having acquired the rights to the character.

Most has acted in a similar capacity on all the **Crow** movies: the two already released, the third (currently in production) and the in-development fourth. He is also producer of the proposed **Crow** TV series.

Razor is published by Hartsoe's London Night Studio which introduced the character in 1992's **Razor** #0.

Star Wars actor's comic movie deal

REHME Productions has optioned film and TV rights to Mark Hamill's screenplay for *The Black Pearl*, based on the 1996 **Black Pearl** mini-series published by Dark Horse Comics.

Written by Hammill and Eric Johnson with art by H. M. Baker and Bruce Patterson, **The Black Pearl** tells the story of a troubled voyeur whose costumed vigilantism sparks a media frenzy.

"The Black Pearl is a taut, focused tale of grey morality," says Robert Rheme, founder and chief of Rheme Productions. and current president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, "This is not a superhero saga. It's a mix of tabloid thriller, romance and adventure.

Hamill is, of course, best-known for his portrayal of Luke Skywalker in the *Star Wars* trilogy.

Batman V for the millennium?

DESPITE rumours that *Batman and Robin* might be the last in the series, the current word is that Warner Bros is looking to release a fifth *Batman* movie in the year 2000.

Director Joel Schumacher has indicated that he would like to return to direct what would be his third Bat-movie.

More Surfer...

ALTHOUGH the first season has yet to debut, Saban Entertainment has ordered eight more scripts for its *Silver Surfer* animated TV series.

First season story editor and writer Larry Brody has been contracted for this second batch of scripts. Brody is also a contributor to the second season of HBO's *Spawn* animated series, which will begin in either May or June on HBO.

The 13-episode first season – tentatively scheduled to premiere on US TV on February 7 – will close with a cliffhanger involving Thanos.

... more Spawn

THE SECOND season of HBO's *Spawn* animated TV series will open with an episode in which Chapel confronts Spawn.

"It will be the meeting of Chapel and Spawn finally, and Spawn's realization of who Chapel actually was and some more information about his past," said supervising director Eric Radomski.

Returning from the first season along with Radomski are **Spawn** creator Todd McFarlane as executive producer, supervising producer Catherine Winder, producer John Kafka and co-producers Karen Horne and Terry Fitzgerald. The voice cast – which includes Keith David as Spawn and Richard Dysart as Cogliostro – also returns.

The first of the six second season *Spawn* episodes is currently scheduled to debut early in the summer.

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NETWORKS

A round-up of comics news, information & gossip posted on the Internet. Compiled by Michael Doran, Richard J Johnston & Barry Spray

SEEN ON THE NET

Miraclemen and angels

THE debate over the ownership of Miracleman still rages. For latecomers, Todd (**Spawn**) McFarlane bought the Eclipse (bankrupt) properties, to get Miracleman. Instead he got The Heap and Airboy, as the creators themselves owned two-thirds of Miracleman.

Neil Gaiman (who owns one third) created Angela as part of his one-off issue of **Spawn** (#9), a character put to a lot of use since, but without Gaiman. Now read on...

Cathy Buksar (chouse@case.cioe.com) wrote, after meeting **Miracleman** writer, Neil Gaiman: *He essentially said that McFarlane is using it* [Miracleman] *as a bribe to get Neil to give up all rights to the Angela character. He said, "See, I think I should get some kind of royalties for creating Angela seeing as how she's now in several books, toys, and the cartoon. And Todd thinks I should just go away and leave him alone."*

Sean Medlock (seanmed@aol.com) commented: *I find it hard to be sympathetic. He's not exactly a babe in the woods, that Gaiman. He should have known what he was getting into.*

...Which presumably means Gaiman shouldn't have taken McFarlane at his word? (RJJ)

Sand in your face

THE recent **Preacher Special – Cassidy: Blood And Whiskey** has sported comment on rec.arts.comics.dc.vertigo.

Victoria Conatser (parabola@mindspring.com) posted: *A warning to those of you who took umbrage at Ennis' twitting of Goths and Goth culture in the "Les Enfants" story arc. It doesn't get any better in the latest* **Preacher** *special. In fact, this time around he drives the point a bit harder by including a poetry-writing Neil Gaiman lookalike in the motley cast of undead wannabes.*

Ian McDowell (ikmcdowe@hamlet.uncg.edu) posted: *I'm a bit bemused at the tweaking Garth (Ennis) gives Neil, which seems to be some sort of alpha male comics writer thing... And one can argue that the Hard Drinking Irishman is every bit as much of a literary pose as anything Neil may be guilty of.*

I've never met Ennis, unfortunately, but several people have told me they think he tries a bit too hard to live up to his own legend.

DC's Martha Thomases (dcomartha@aol.com) added: *I never saw this story as a swipe at Neil. Which is not to say that Garth is a big fan. But vampire wannabees are a much bigger target (more ludicrous and more plentiful) than other comic book writers.* (RJJ)

WEB AND INTERNET REVIEWS

Chaos Comics: *http://www.chaoscomics.com*
Those of you interested in Evil Ernie and Lady Death can find out all about the publisher by using the *Guide to Chaos*. There is also a chat room, information about new projects and a whole lot more. This is a large, well-structured site which keeps you hopping around for ages. The only drawback is the time it takes to view the images on the front page. But if you are a fan of good girl art, this is a excellent start site as there are a series of good links to other sites. (BS) **8**

Comic Shop News: *http://www.dreamsville.com/CSN CSNsider.html*
A basic site that gives a taste of what that week's printed issue carries, but not a lot else. This is presumably to give you a taste of the magazine, not to supplement or replace it. But this negates the need to buy the actual magazine! (BS) **6**

DC Comics: *http://www.dccomics.com*
Like Chaos, DC has a front page that seems to take forever to load, but once there you become spoiled for choice. The site features DC Universe, Vertigo, Helix, Comics for all, Mad, Paradox and Tangent sections, together with DC's future plans and an on-line newsletter.

The section on DC media history is both thorough and very good. Being a fan of the TV series I jumped to *Batman the Animated Adventures* section (*http://www.batmantas.com*) and was able to find a history, take in a full review of the major characters and see what will be coming in the next series. You can even download a series of games and puzzles and take part in a quiz.

This is an excellent and thorough site. The only downside is that you can spend far too much time on it. My suggestion is to think about what you want to look at and concentrate on that aspect. (BS) **9**

Watchmen: *http://theory.lcs.mit.edu/pub/people/wald/watchmen/watchmen.*
No fancy pictures, no ads and no major links on this site to catch your attention. But look beyond the presentation to the content and you will be surprised. It features a comprehensive list of characters and additional background information beyond the comic series. You can then link to other articles associated with the Watchmen. (BS) **8**

Byrne on Spider-Man

ON AOL Comic And Anime forum, an appeal went out from a fan: *I was disappointed when I learned that you will be leaving* ***JK4W*** **[Jack Kirby's Fourth World]** *after issue 20 (even though I DO know that nothing lasts forever) and was already mentally working my way around to giving up the title at that point. Then I heard that Walt Simonson may be considering taking over. All I can say is it's about time we started getting some good news out of this business.*

John Byrne was on hand to reply: *Well, does this count?* he asked. *The negotiations with Marvel went swimmingly, and as of yesterday I am set to do a 12 issue maxi-series with the working (but I hope not to be used) title* ***Spider-Man: Year One.*** *This will be a retelling, with appropriate updating and some tweaking here and there, of what we have arbitrarily decided was the first 12 months of Spider-Man's career. I'll announce details as to actual title, content, and release dates as they, in turn, get nailed down.* (RJJ)

Retro-continuity

THE relative importance of history has reared its head on the Usenet newsgroups this month, as conversations on the value of, and attitude towards continuity in a shared superhero universe have taken up a significant proportion of discussion.

John Byrne's Spider-Man plans led Kane (kane429@aol.com) to post: *Byrne flatly states that he will make it known that the events in Kurt Busiek's* ***Amazing Fantasy*** *limited series didn't happen! He's going to "Man-Of-Steel those events right out of there!". I feel that this is an act of utter disrespect for Busiek as well as for the character. I would love to know Mr Busiek's reaction to his limited series (which was well done) being erased from continuity by this egotistical so-and-so.*

Paul O'Brien (paul@esoterica.demon.co.uk) posted: ***Daredevil: The Man Without Fear*** *drove a coach and horses through Matt [Murdock]'s origin story, and it was still a damn*

NEOLOGISMS

Terms with which you may be unfamiliar

Browser — The software application used to access (browse through) the material on the World Wide Web.

Compuserve, AOL, Win-uk.net, Virgin.net —Examples of companies that provide limited (or unlimited) access to the Internet.

Compuserve provides a CB (Citizen's Band) facility. This has access to either PG rated forums or adult forums, but it must be noted you can spend a lot of time on-line and you will pay for access as well as local telephone call rates.

Cyberspace — The apparently limitless, invisible, electronic environment, created by computers, software and networks of the Internet.

E-mail — Short for electronic mail, personal letters sent from one address (something @ somewhere, else) to another, like a regular letter, but with the speed of the Internet.

FAQ — Acronym for "Frequently Asked Question". There are special sites with all the FAQs for new users.

Flame — In Newsgroups, a flame is a strongly-worded remark, insult or admonishment. These are normally directed at new Internet users who ask obvious questions (because they didn't use the FAQ files) or people who make stupid comments.

FTP — File Transfer Protocol. A specialised way of moving a file from one place to another on the Internet.

Home Page — The first screen of information you receive from a Web site. Usually a table of contents or a guide with sign posts to places of interest.

Log in — Logging in is the process of giving a name, password and/or other details to enter a specific area on the Internet.

Net — Abbreviation for "Internet". Lots of computers across the world joined together by satellite, phone lines and cables. Anyone can join.

Netiquette — Guidelines are drawn up monitoring acceptable behaviour and putting a stop to unruly elements.

Grasping netiquette can frustrate new users, but every guideline exists for a good reason and the newuser groups on Usenet explain it all.

Remember, just because you pay for Net access doesn't necessarily mean that you have the right to do whatever you want with it, but with people joining groups every day, there is a call for rules to be changed.

Netspeak — The kind of trendy techno-jargon you're reading here!

Newsgroup — Posts are collected under different subject headers. New groups are always being created for most genres, from comics to science fiction, fantasy and media.

Smileys :-) 8-] ;-} <g> <G> — Rarely seen in print, but constantly on the Net, these irritating little symbols are cutesy ways to show that what you've just written was meant as a joke! There are many types of smileys.

Snail-Mail — This is normal mail, the sort that your postman brings in the morning.

URL — Uniform Resource Locator. Webspeak for "address". You should always save the URL's of your favourite websites.

WWW — The World Wide Web. Pages of interactive text and graphics letting you watch videos, play games, listen to music, or get a specific piece of information at any time.

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good series. Just because Byrne is going to muck about with continuity doesn't preclude the series being any good. Having said that, the argument that "John Byrne hasn't done anything I liked since he left She-Hulk and I see no reason to expect anything different here" is somewhat more persuasive... (RJJ)

Invisible writing

AFTER complaints that Vertigo's **The Invisibles** is becoming harder to follow due to its non-linear story structure, Paul O'Brien (paul@esoterica.demon.co.uk) offered this: *I distinctly remember Grant Morrison telling an interviewer some years ago that he had once been reading a comic on drugs, and he'd accidentally turned back a few pages by mistake and thought he'd gone back in time. Supposedly Doom Patrol was an attempt to write a comic that would be, shall we say, conducive to reading under such circumstances. I wouldn't be surprised if he hasn't given up the crusade.* (RJJ)

Tools of the trade

STEVE Gerber has offered a valuable piece of software for all would-be comics writers with word processors: *Over the past few years, I've developed a suite of Word for Windows templates to automate the writing of comic book scripts and plots. They were created for my own use, not for sale. I'm making the script templates available here, for anyone who might want to try them. These templates work only with the English versions of Word for Windows 6.0, 7.0, and Word 97.*

Please make a donation in any amount to the CBLDF if you find yourself using them regularly.

To get this tool, follow instructions on site at *ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/sgerber*. (RJJ)

The Internet Comics Directory

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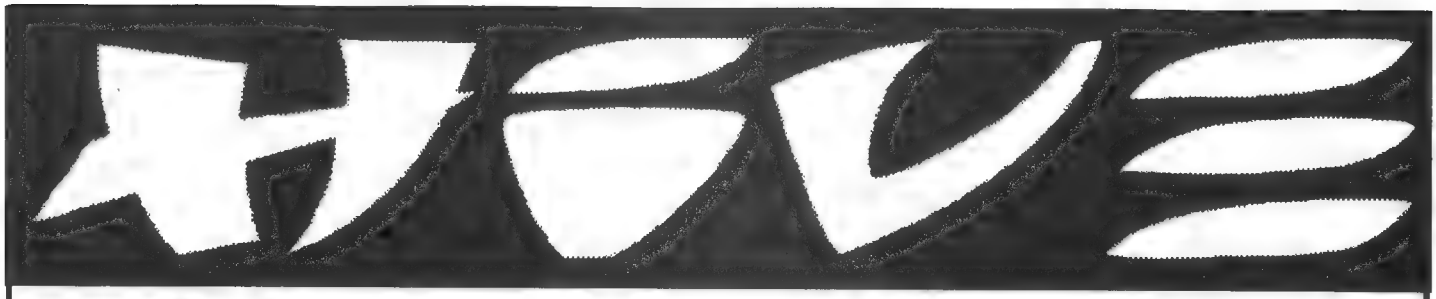
www.elfquest.com
WildStorm
www.wildstorm.com

NEWS SITES

CBI Newsarama
www.mania.com/newsarama/newssrama.htx
CI's Michael Doran with his own comics news column
Comic Book Resources
www.comicbookresources.com
List and links for over 600 comics-related websites
Mania Magazine
www.mania.com
News, interviews and features on comics, movies, TV, toys, gaming, cards, etc.
Wizard
www.wizardprees.com
Home of the leading US news magazine.

INTERNET FANZINES

Comic Book Electronic Magazine
member.aol.com/ComicBkNet/index.html
Web (public) version of one of the Net's largest and most comprehensive fan newsletters
New Comics Release List
www.ccse.net/~ncrl
Award-winning site featuring news, late release information, and other features.
Comics Book Clearing House
www.sonic.net/~comix/
Home of the small press on the Internet
Indy Magazine
www.indyworld.com
Web version of Jeff Mason's magazine on independently published comics



BRIGHTON: 6 Kensington Gdns, Brighton BN1 4AL Phone/fax: (01273) 687802
EASTBOURNE: Enterprise Shopping Centre, in 'Gamehouse', next to station

Frank Butcher tells Ricky to turn it in...

PAT, TELL RICKY THAT BIANCA IS MISSIN' AHT ON GOIN' AHT CLUBBIN' COS THAT PRANNY' RICKY IS SPENDIN' TOO MAAACH DOSH ON COMICS. THE UVVER DAY BIANCA CAUGHT RICKY WIV A TORCH UNDER THE COVERS WIV A COMIC. SHE TOLD PHIL, BUT HE THOUGHT SHE SAID, "TORCH THE CAR LOT," AN' HE DID! NOW I'VE GOTTA DO A RUNNER FROM THE SQUARE, UVVERWISE I'LL END UP DOIN' BLAG FOR SOMETHING I NEVER DID! MOODY, INNIIT, STRAKE A LIGHT, GORBLIMEY, GUV'NOR, ETC... IF HE'D BOUGHT EM AT RESERVOIR FROGS AT THE HIVE (POSSIBLY THE CHEAPEST IMPORT COMIC RETAILER IN ENGLAND), RICKY WOULDN'T HAVE TA KEEP IT FROM BIANCA ALL THE TIME, SO THE ENTIRE SITUATION WOULD NEVVA AVE APPENED

"Advertising is useless & ineffective,"

SAID JIM DAWSON OF *PIG FARMERS MONTHLY*. "I ADVERTISED IN *COMICS INTERNATIONAL* FOR 2 YEARS, AND NEVER SOLD A SINGLE PIG." ON A LIGHTER NOTE, THOUGH, RESERVOIR FROGS PLACED A SERIES OF ADS IN BOTH *COMICS INTERNATIONAL* AND *PIG FARMERS MONTHLY*, AND CREATED MORE THAN 80 STANDING ORDERS, OVER 300 WANTS LISTS FAXED AND SENT IN, NEARLY 200 OTHER ASSORTED ENQUIRIES. WE ALSO SOLD FOUR DOZEN HEAD OF PIGS, FOUR BOARS, THREE PIG STYES AND A MARVIN GAYE TAPE WE BOUGHT AT A BOOT SALE. TALK ABOUT QUICK TURNAROUND!

HIVE BIOGRAPHIES

Those who strive at Hive (with chives) to arrive with your comics...

Gary: Known as Starsky Proto on certain days, his hobby is digging moats around city cathedrals, filling it with wire wool and cheese mixture, baking at gas mark 5 for 20 minutes, and sharing the proceeds made with Russell Grant at panto in Wimbledon.

Paul gargles coleslaw atop his mile-high semi-detached donkey, whilst whistling the tune of Crossroads backward in Greek. On Saturdays, he can often be seen in your town collecting concrete manholes. Currently he has over 2,800.

Tony has had a real interest in bloater paste since the age of 3. Single since the age of 50, he now dedicates his time to drinking treacle, has a dog called Giro, and is a fully-fledged crusty. A Tory MP for 15 years, he wants capital punishment back.

Eliot bunged the gypsy a fiver so Jed tarmaced his living room. Seen often smoking his own smell, his other habits include *Star Wars*, growing dogs in spinach, combing his eyes, and convincing people he is *not* Val Doonican.

Esther does mail order and is happy to deal with your enquiries. If not there, ask for Starsky. If he's not there, contact Paul, Tony or Eliot. If nobody is there, we are shut. Stop ringing us late at night, we all live in one big house, and are all in bed by 7 every night.

RETAIL - MAIL ORDER - COMING TO YOUR TOWN SOON

HOUSE BRIGHTON

6 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL
Phone/fax: (01273) 687802

Nice things we have in stock

Comics

Flash 130-131 ..... £1 each
Hitman 16-22 ..... £1.15 ea
Preacher 25-35 ..... £1.25 ea
Stardust 1-3 ..... £3.60 ea
Hellblazer ..... lots
Fighting American, Kaboom, Coven ..... call
Invisibles vol 2 1-6 .. £1.50 ea
Invisibles vol 2 7-11 £1.25 ea
20-20 Visions 1-10 . £1.15 ea
All Heroes Return #1s £1.50 ea
Creech 1-3 ..... £1.25 ea
Plus loads more!

Statues

Preacher £150
Sin City – Marv £31
Sandman £55
Lobo £32
Robin £32
Frankenstein £20

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS GLANDS!

Fat-necked worm found to have simulacrum of much needed nice version of Earth.
Or was it a lump of mud? More on page 150...

10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT COMICS...

1) No cucumber has ever been given away with any comic (except Percy Thrower Action Comic's 15th anniversary issue, seeds were the free gift)
2) No comic has ever won the Nobel Peace prize
3) Is the magic number
4) At the height of its circulation, DC's Atari Force printed over 6,000,000 copies of issue 5; only 33 sold. Probably
5) 60% of comics don't like mushrooms (Gallup poll, 1835)
6) There is no 6 (old gag)
7) In Mongolia, the translation of comics means "Bovril bullets thru Bourneville Boulevard", I think
8) 9) & 10) Please see next issue

Retail price list

$1.75 = 0.90p
$1.95 = £1.00
$1.99 = £1.00
$2.25 = £1.15
$2.50 = £1.25
$2.75 = £1.40
$2.95 = £1.50
$3.25 = £1.75
$3.50 = £1.85
$3.95 = £2.00
$4.50 = £2.30
$4.95 = £2.60
$5.95 = £3.60
$6.95 = £4.25

Also in EASTBOURNE at the
Enterprise Shopping Centre, in 'Gamehouse', next to station
For a groovy range of imports, Tiger!

CRAZY - IT'S SUCH FUN - BLOODCLOT BATTY BOY - BABYLON & TING!

THE COMICS WAREHOUSE

P.O. BOX 600 (90), MALDON, ESSEX CM9 4XD, ENGLAND

YOUR SINGLE SOURCE FOR INEXPENSIVE QUALITY READING & COLLECTING

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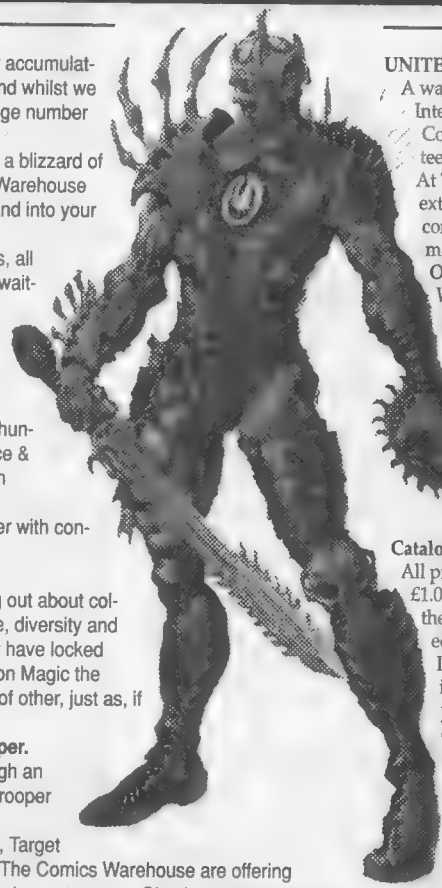
THE CLEARANCE CENTRE FOR PUBLISHER'S OVERSTOCKS AND REMAINDERS
ADVANCE ORDER SPECIALIST
OVER TWO MILLION COMICS & BOOKS IN STOCK
The Comics Warehouse

SPRING SPECIAL CARD & TOY CATALOGUE

VALID UNTIL 31ST MARCH 1998 (OR WHILST STOCKS LAST)



Yes folks we finally got around to racking & stacking our accumulated hoard of trading cards and collectible card games. And whilst we were in the pull it and push it work mode, we found a huge number of toys and models too.

The sixteen pages you now hold, are merely the start of a blizzard of bargains, an avalanche of adventure from The Comics Warehouse that will thunder into your town and down your streets, and into your homes, during 1998.

But patience, all will be revealed as the months progress, all good things come to those who wait... and you've been waiting a long time for us to reveal our cache of toys and trading cards. Right now, we are in shelf clearing mode with bargains galore in the card and toy arenas. Inside these pages you'll find a cornucopia of colourful collectibles, at prices within the reach of every pocket. Prices that will enable you to experiment and check out hundreds of diverse lines that you've never tried before. Price & stock ranges that reinforce our philosophy of service with value...

So read, enjoy, go 'wow! how can they do that", and order with confidence... write or call soon.

A note about Collectible Card Games

Many of you have no doubt toyed with the idea of finding out about collectible card games, but were maybe put off by the range, diversity and apparent complexity of the games available. Others may have locked themselves into a straightjacket by concentrating solely on Magic the Gathering, without realising that there are a whole heap of other, just as, if not more, enjoyable, card games out there.

One that I'd like to draw your attention to is **Doom Trooper.** Originally launched a few years ago, and surviving through an onslaught of competitive and "me too" products, Doom Trooper is an excellent game of madness, mayhem, death and destruction. In conjunction with Doom Troopers' creators, Target Games of Sweden, and their UK distributors Gamecraft, The Comics Warehouse are offering Doom Trooper starter decks and boosters at an incredibly low entry point. Check out page twelve of this catalogue for the full details Be amazed, be bold, be a warrior and add Doom Trooper starters with rule books and/or boosters to your order today.

As with our whole 16 page catalogue, the special Doom Trooper offer is open until March 31st 1998. We have a commitment from Gamecraft that all orders for Doom Trooper will be honoured at the prices on page 12, until March 31st, but please remember that all the rest of our card and toy offerings are available to March 31st, or, whilst stocks last.

Although we do have thousands of cards and hundreds of toys, some ranges, especially bin ends, are limited. So have your order in early folks, list a few alternates, if possible, and enjoy your purchases (especially Doom Trooper). By the way, the savage warrior with the wicked cutting blade and spiked sword illustrated on this page and page 12, is a Warrior from The Dark Legion in the Doom Trooper Universe

The minimum order is just £5.00 for written orders and £10.00 for phoned or faxed orders, there is also a flat fee of £3.50 for shipping. The flat rate shipping charge is for delivery in mainland UK - whatever the size of your order. See our panel on page fifteen for full ordering instructions along with shipping details for outside the mainland UK addresses.

Please note: to improve efficiency of processing, picking and dispatch, we print the computer codes used for each title e.g. TH721. DOOM TROOPER STARTERS, TS 612: CARNAGE 5" ACTION FIGURE, it is extremely helpful if you give the relevant computer code with your order, whether verbally, with telephone orders, or when listing written orders.

The prices in this advertisement are valid from publication until 31st March 1998.

All prices are per copy or per individual unit except for set and pack prices which are for single sets or single packs as advertised.

Please note that there are a few mature readers cards distributed through our 16 pager. Items like Playboy Centrefolds and Bench Warmers require an age of majority (18) statement and signature.

Over to you good people, there's a ton of good stuff awaiting...

Colin & The Warehouse Crew
Here to Serve You.

PS: We recently distributed several thousand discount vouchers to our Back Issue and Advance Order Customers. Those vouchers are relevant to, and should be used with, our 1997 Winter Catalogue, which expires on February 28th 1998. They are not applicable to the current sixteen pager you are holding - thank you - *C.*

PPS: Enjoy our hobby. Will 1998 be the year of the Doom Trooper?

UNITED STATES CUSTOMERS ~ *PLEASE READ THIS SECTION*

A warm welcome goes out to all U.S. fans who are now enjoying Comics International's expanded geographic coverage. Please remember that Comics International is published on a regular four weekly cycle, thirteen issues per year, make sure that you don't miss any.

At The Comics Warehouse, orders from our friends in the USA are extremely welcome. We do have a few ground rules though, which are constructed to make ordering convenient for you and help us to be more efficient in getting your order to you swiftly and accurately.

ORDERS (in writing)

With hundreds of accents across the USA and almost as many regional voice variations in the United Kingdom, verbal communication can at times get a little confusing. A pundit once described the UK and the USA as being divided by a common language. To eliminate any confusion in the verbal translation of orders (which could lead to mis-keying a computer code and you receiving incorrect books) we chatted to a few customers and decided that, at present, orders from the USA should only be submitted in writing (preferably utilising our handy Order From at the back of the catalogue) so that we can process your requirements correctly.

Catalog Pricing

All prices given in this catalog are in £pounds sterling (100 pence = £1.00 sterling). The current rate of exchange is around $1.50 to $1.60 to the £1.00 sterling (phrased the other way approx £0.60 (60 pence) equals $1.00).

It's very easy when wandering through our catalog to be seduced into thinking that £0.30 (30 pence) equals 30 cents. Try not to allow yourself to be so deflected. Keep in mind that 30 pence is approx 50 cents and 95 pence (£0.95) is around $1.50. This information is given for your convenience only. All charges are made by us in £pounds sterling. Your credit card company will automatically convert your credit card account into US $dollars.

Order Payments

Our catalogs are all priced in £sterling, and to save you any of the difficulties which can occur in cheque and money order requests for different currencies, we are accepting all US orders via Credit Cards such as Visa, Mastercard and Amex. You can therefore order comfortably, conveniently and safely using our catalog and prices. Y our credit card company in turn, will automatically calculate the rate of exchange to dollars for you, when they process the £sterling transaction to your account.

Order Processing

Your written orders can be FAXED to us at: **011 44 1621 850862.**

AIR MAILED to: **The Comics Warehouse (90), Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD, United Kingdom.** (Don't forget to use Air Mail stickers or write AirMail on the envelope - FIRST CLASS POST IS NOT AIRMAIL).

E-Mail to. usorders@permal.demon.co.uk

Your order will be computer entered and processed in sequence as received. Once picked, packed, cleared and ready to ship, a copy of the delivery note specifying the contents of your parcel can be faxed, airmailed or E-Mailed back to you.

SHIPPING

All parcels will be dispatched by International Air Parcel, UPS or Fedex which ever gives the most economic pricing for most speed service.

It is difficult to quantify International Air pricing but all parcels shipping fees will only be debited at cost to your credit card.

SUMMARY

Fax, Air Mail or E Mail your order with Credit Card Details, along with your Credit Card address and Delivery Address. Your card company will bill you in dollars. Our telephone number for queries (not orders) is 011441621 859242. We look forward to processing your orders to give you many hours of enjoyable reading and collecting.

Colin & The Warehouse Crew.

8 GALLIFORD RD,MALDON,ESSEX CM9 4XD

Tel: 01621 850351 . 01621 859242

Fax: 01621 850862 . Messages: 01621 859243

Representing "Your Right to Read". We believe you have the right to be able to afford and enjoy fantasy entertainment

Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

Cards come in all shapes, sizes and configurations these days.
From Collectible Card Games, with their infinite permutations and expansion possibilities to superhero and horror images to movie stills, all with their various chase, hologram, and rare varieties.
From standard to supersize, from albums to put them in, to archival collecting sleeves, the phenomena of card collecting has grown to be a complete fantasy subculture of its own.
That sheer exuberance of cards has, in turn, meant that many boxes, singles and packs have gradually accumulated at The Comics Warehouse.
We've now found time to take this two year accumulation and add most of them to our computer data base. Therefore we offer for your enjoyment the following ranges of packs, boxes, starters, singles and sets. Enjoy...

A word of explanation:
A PACK is an unopened pack containing a variable quantity of cards dependent on how the publisher decided to fill them.
SINGLES are just that, single cards which we normally sell in groups of ten cards, all different.
SETS are normally complete sets of a particular subject.
All our prices include VAT which is a UK domestic tax, customers outside the UK need not pay the tax, although their own Customs and Excise authorities may charge them tax on acceptance of their parcel. Quantities are, in the main, quite broad, but not limitless, therefore if you have the ability to specify alternates it will probably be helpful. Pricing depends on our input cost, (maybe on last night's curry as well), so you will definitely find some great bargains within these lists. We expect everything to go fairly quickly, so don't delay, act today... All prices are per item, e.g. Per Pack, Per Box, etc.
Here's the list and we kick of with our limited remaining stock of the anime sensation AKIRA

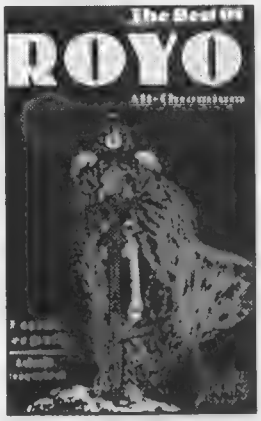
TC6: AKIRA TRADING CARDS: 10 cards in each pack.
42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49

TC8: ANIMANIACS TATTOOS: One sheet of easy on/off junior tattoos plus puzzle card
21p + 4p VAT = ...£0.25

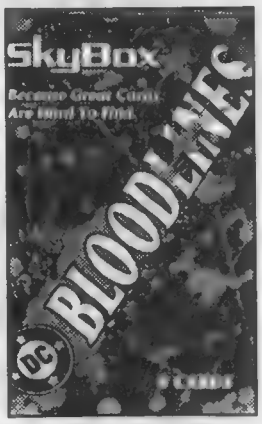
TC24: BATMAN: THE SAGA OF THE DARK KNIGHT. First offered by Topps a couple of years ago these Saga of the Dark Knight Trading Card boxes have limited edition specra etched subset cards at a ratio of approx 1 : 18, and "SKY DISK' full dimension hologram at approx. 1 : 240 packs, 36 packs per box, 8 cards per pack. Originally around £30 these boxes are available from The Warehouse at £16.98 + £2.97 VAT =.....£19.95
that's just 55p per pack
Available in sealed unopened boxes only.

TC25: BERNIE WRIGHTSON II: MORE MACABRE: 10 UV coated full colour cards per pack with randomly inserted autographed cards
64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75

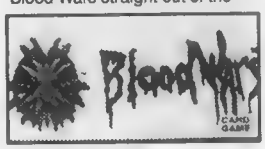
TC27: BEST OF LUIS ROYO CHROMIUM: Artwork of the ultimate in fantasy warrior women and weaponry. A third 90-card collection series of this artist's classic SF and fighting fantasy forays. 7 Cards per pack, the series contains 500 autographed cards, six Manga Chromes and a limited medallion card. 64p + 11p VAT = £0.75



TC28: BLOODLINES TRADING CARDS: From Sky Box and DC Comics, the Official trading cards for the New Blood heroes that were introduced throughout 1994, when the alien vampire race came to wreak havoc on the DC Universe. 8-card pack
42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49



TC29: THE BLOOD WARS GAME is an entirely new card game based on the AD&D game's Planescape role-playing campaign setting. Using a Duel-Deck pack (which consists of 2 decks of 50 cards each) and the enclosed rules, two players can begin the eternal struggle of the Blood Wars straight out of the



package and play through their first battle within an hour! Further game expansions are available. Whether you're looking to take command of Carceri or conquer the blessed slopes of Mount Celestia, here's where you start! Each double deck is just
£2.13 + 37p VAT =.....£2.50

TC30: BLOOM COUNTY / OUTLAND CHROMIUM CARDS Opius, Bill the Cat, Mortimer Mouse and all the other characters of Pulitzer Prize-Winning cartoonist Berkeley Breathed, come alive on chromium in this new series of 100 cards from Krome. First BLOOM COUNTY, and then OUTLAND captured the imagination and loyalty of comic strip fans. With a long list of successful trade paperbacks in print, and countless licensed products, the BLOOM COUNTY characters have become an industry unto themselves. In addition to the regular chromium cards, 5 state-of-the art Chromium cards are randomly inserted, each pack has 7 cards and 1 Chromium sticker.

TC30: BLOOM COUNTY: each pack is
30p + 5p VAT = ...£0.35

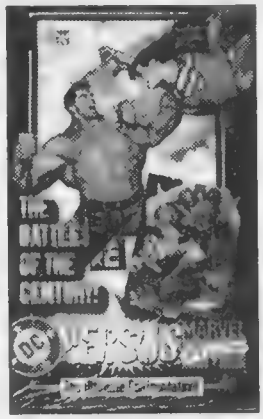
TC64B: CHRIS ACHILLEOS SERIES 2: Dragons, sorcery and fantasy. 10 cards per pack of Chris' imaginative, emotive artwork per pack. 90 cards in the series, with randomly inserted 'Metallic Storm' and autographed copies. 81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95

TC66: CHRIS FOSS FANTASY ART FOIL: Premier English Fantasy artist Chris Foss brings his amazingly detailed and colourful visions of space and spaceships to this 90 cards set from FPG. His breath-taking visions of imaginary worlds made him the number one choice of designer on such films as SUPERMAN, FLASH GORDON, and ALIEN. A 5-card "metallic" chase set and 1000 foil stamped autograph cards are randomly inserted. Each pack has 8 cards.

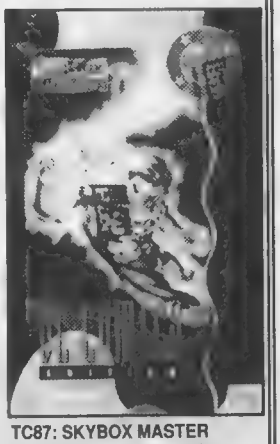
TC66: Each pack of 8 Chris Foss Cards is
42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49

TC68: COCA-COLA SUPER PREMIUM FOIL. Pure trading card refreshment! This set of 60 super premium cards puts Coca-Cola best ad art on 24-point stock with borderless images and gold foil stamping on both sides. 10-card Dufex Polar Bear insert set is seeded 1 in 9 packs. Rare coupon cards redeemable for 24-karat gold Ty Cobb cards are randomly seeded.
Each pack contains 8 cards.
Each Coca-Cola Super Premium pack is just
81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95

TC69: COCA-COLA METAL COLLECTOR CARDS: Featuring the Coca-Cola Polar Bears. Series One: Collectible trading cards made in metal and supplied in their own brand metal tin. 10 cards plus authenticity certificate in each tin.
£12.72 + £2.23 VAT = ...£14.95



TC86: DC vs MARVEL THE ULTIMATE CONFRONTATION: The battles of the Century; Skybox Trading Cards depicting the titanic battles between DC & Marvel heroes. The full set consists of 99 basic cards plus 1 checklist card: limited edition subsets consist of 18 Impact Cards approx 1:4 packs, 12 Holo F/X cards; approx 1:12 packs, 2 Mirage Cards approx 1:360 packs. There is no guarantee that any single box will contain an entire set of basic cards or chase cards. Each Factory Sealed box contains 36 packs and at present we can only offer them to you as factory sealed boxes. The normal retail for each box would be around £50 to £60.
Warehouse customers
£25.50 + £4.46 VAT =.....£29.96
that's 83p per pack!

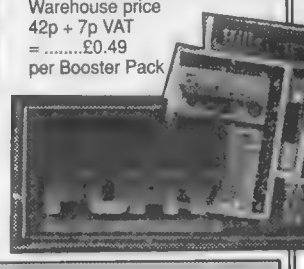


TC87: SKYBOX MASTER SERIES: DC Comics Edition premier Series; 6 cards per pack: 36 packs per box: odds of finding foil bonus cards approx 1 : 18 packs. Dual sided Spectra Etch cards approx 1:36 packs. Superman Sky Disk approx 1: 240 packs: odds reflect average of production run. The ratio is not guaranteed to exist in any single box or case:
Each box which is factory sealed by SkyBox would normally retail around £35.00.
Comics Warehouse customers can purchase each box for
£16.98 + £2.97 VAT = ...£19.95
just 55p per pack of 6 cards

Town by town, bridge by bridge, the war in Europe rages on. Axis or Allies, stack your decks with Infantry, Artillery, Armour, Supply, Tactical Manoeuvres, and much, much more. YOU choose both force and strategy as you create **ECHELONS OF FURY.** Echelons of Fury is a Tactical Command Series card game of WWII Tactical Combat. Each player must have at least one deck of cards, collecting and trading them to increase the power and diversity of their decks.

TC91A: ECHELONS OF FURY STARTER DECK of 65 cards plus Rules normally $8.95 Warehouse price
£1.66 + 29p VAT =.....£1.95

TC91B: ECHELONS OF FURY BOOSTER PACKS. Each Booster Pack contains 15 cards normally $4.00; Warehouse price
42p + 7p VAT
= £0.49
per Booster Pack



All orders from outside the U.K. must be paid for in £ sterling. Overseas credit cards welcome.

Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TC99: ELVIS PRESLEY COLLECTION: A giant-size, unique collection package, complete and factory-sealed in its own tribute casing.
The King lives forever in collections like these.
£59.93 + £10.42 VAT = ...£69.95

TC104: EVIL ERNIE SET: An all-chromium enhanced 55-card set featuring artwork by Adam Hughes, Mark Morales, series creator Brian Pulido and many others. All the Ernie cast (including Lady Death) are present, and the back of each card can be matched to the others to form a giant Ernie jigsaw picture. Full set in chromium card box
£8.47 + £1.48 VAT = ...£9.95

TC147: GUNSMOKE T.V. TRADING CARDS: 110 card collection of the classic TV western series with stills from episodes developed by Pacific Trading Cards. 10-card pack
64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75

'GUARDIANS'

If you've been waiting for a collectible card game with truly incredible art, wait no longer. FPG is proud to present 'GUARDIANS", an exciting collectible card game with all new pieces by the top fantasy artists in the world! Prepare yourselves for a visual roller coaster as you journey into the real past to meet all manner of creatures from the jolly Gnomes, swash-buckling Pirates and foul Undead to the ferocious Dragons and terrible Slag Beasts.

GUARDIANS is a unique gaming system that combines the strategy of chess with fast-paced card action. This makes the game easy to learn, while also allowing for an almost infinite number of strategies. As the Vierkun, you send your armies out from your stronghold to conquer disputed lands and do battle against your enemies, the other players. One of the real strengths of Game is that there is more than one way to win the game, in fact there are four possible victory conditions. These conditions keep the game interesting because there is always a chance that the underdog could satisfy one of the conditions of victory before his opponent, and win the game out from underneath him. FPG has always been known for having some of the highest quality art and artists, Guardians is no exception, with artists like Mike Ploog, Keith Parkinson, and Brom. The game contains over 270 cards of four different rarities: common, uncommon, scarce, and rare. The starter deck includes a rulebook and 60 cards. Booster Packs each contain 14 cards. We have copies of both the original LIMITED EDITION release and the rapid follow up "revised" printing after the first Limited Edition printing sold out.

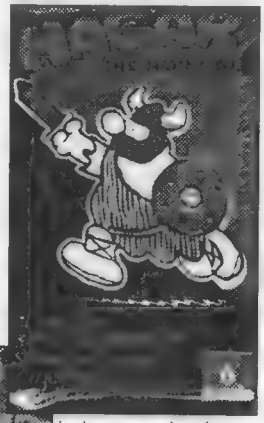
TC148A: GUARDIANS LIMITED EDITION STARTER DECK £4.21 + 74p VAT = ..£4.95

TC148B: GUARDIANS: LIMITED EDITION BOOSTER PACKS £1.06 + 19p VAT = £1.25

TC150A: GUARDIANS REVISED EDITION STARTER DECK £3.36 + 59p VAT = ..£3.95

TC150B: GUARDIANS: REVISED EDITION BOOSTER PACKS 64p + 11p VAT =....£0.75

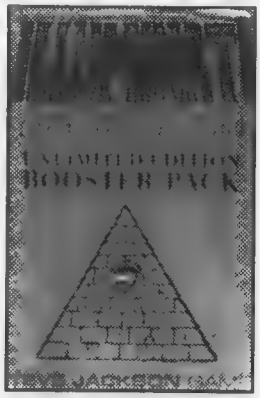
TC151: HAGAR THE HORRIBLE: Look out! Here comes Hagar the Horrible! No. It's not Sammy, or the man in the no-press slacks. It's Dick Brown's barbarous comic strip Norseman. Fans of this long running strip will enjoy this 50-card series. A set of 6 silver foil Hagar Warfare cards are inserted (1 per 3 packs). An Authentix Chase Pax with all 6 chase cards is inserted 1 per 108 packs.
Each pack contains 6 cards
Each pack is
64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75



TC173: MAGIC: THE GATHERING 'ICE AGE' DECKMASTER: Playable as a starter deck of 60 cards or as an expansion to the war-torn original deck and boosters, 'Ice Age' zooms into the Dominia future where the Magic wars have ended, leaving a barren and frozen land where survival is the only thing the few remaining inhabitants care about. As one new society makes a stand against the demons, the barbaric pillaging tribes and the wicked necromancer of the Wasteland, you must find the courage to withstand the Ice Age. Starter Deck £4.68 + 82p VAT=.....£5.50

TC175B: ILLUMINATI: NEW WORLD ORDER UNLIMITED STARTER DECK. Steve Jackson games enters the trading card game market with a new game based on their award winning Illuminati card/board game. Anyone familiar with the original Illuminati will know it is perfectly suited to the collectible card game genre. The premise is simple; each player is in control of a super-powerful secret society, bent on world domination through subversion and backstabbing. Cards represent the numerous organisations that each Illuminati can control, as well as special cards loaded with sneaky tricks! Designed by Steve Jackson, who created the classic original. Each Starter Set is a double pack consisting of 110 cards and rule book, enough for two people to begin playing. Each Starter Set retails for $9.95.

TC175B: ILLUMINATI DOUBLE STARTER DECK
£5.06 plus 89p VAT = ... £5.95



TC175A: ILLUMINATI: NEW WORLD ORDER UNLIMITED BOOSTERS: Increase your playing potential with these Booster Packs! Each pack contains 15 cards, which will be comprised of 11 common, 3 uncommon and 1 rare. Each pack retails for only $2.25, and there are 36 packs per Booster Box. Each Booster Pack of 15 cards is
£1.28 plus 22p VAT = ... £1.50

TC196: JUDGE DREDD: THE MOVIE: 82 card base set showcasing scenes from the Movie (which is now out on video) plus all new artwork from Dredd artists like Ron Smith & Mike McMahon. Brit City Babes puzzle pin up 'Sleep of the Just' original story. We've had a few boxes of these Dredd cards come our way. Each pack contains 8 cards and we are offering them to you at a measly
21p + 4p VAT = ...£0.25
per pack of 8 cards.

TC198: LADY DEATH II CHROMIUM CARDS FOIL: The diva of Death returns! With never-before-seen Steven Hughes art and first appearances of new foes Ferra and Pandemonium. There's 9 bonus cards randomly inserted - 5 cards with the latest in chromium technology by Hughes, Jusko, Bell and a mystery guest, a Jim Balent tryptich chase set, and a mystery guest chase card. Brian Pulido and Steven Hughes autograph 500 cards for random insertion, and every pack includes a Lady Death chromium sticker! Everyone wants to try their hand at Lady Death, and in this brand new set of 100 all chromium cards Jusko, Linsner, Quesada, Tucci, Julie Bell, Mike Deodato, Semeiks, Dark One, Lindo, Hartsoe, Mullen, Justinino, Louis Small Jr., Ben Dunn, Mike Bair, Mark Morales, Steven Butler, Mitch Byrd, Tom Mandrake, David Mack, Buzz Caesar, Walter McDaniel, Roman Morales III, Steven Sandoval, Eric Mache, and mystery guests artists, do! Each pack 6 packs and 1 chromium sticker. From The Warehouse you can obtain each pack of six cards for
81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95

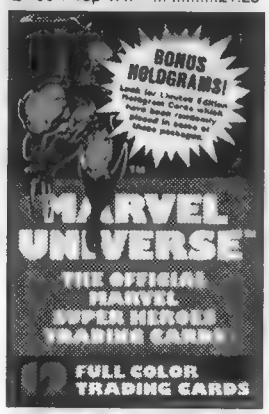
TC215: MAGIC: THE GATHERING STARTER DECK: Designed by Richard Garfield, this phenomenally successful trading card game catapults the player into the mysterious and perilous realm of Dominia, where magic and monsters collide in a battlefield that stretches across icy tundra to sprawling cities and dark forests. There is always more to discover as you begin to feel your feet in this deadly arena of war, politics, quests and romance.Basic Starter Deck with rules £4.68 + 82p VAT = ...£5.50

TC199C: M AGIC THE GATHERING BOOSTER PACKS: 15 cards per pack
£1.28 + 22p VAT = ...£1.50

TC216: MAGIC: THE GATHERING 'CHRONICLES' BOOSTER PACKS: Exploring Dominia's rich magical heritage with a re-published look at some of the rare and hard-to-locate initial expansion sets, including Arabian Nights, Antiquities and The Dark. 12-card pack
£1.28 + 22p VAT =.....£1.50

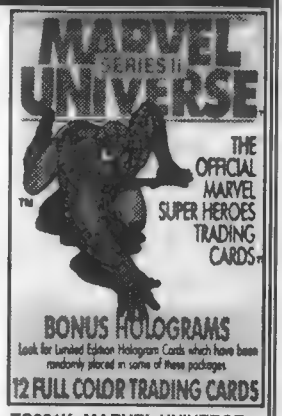
TC221E: MARVEL MASTERPIECES '93: The final edition from Skybox, 90 foil-stamped U-V coated, full-bleed trading cards in 6-card packs. Watch for the 8 rare spectra-etch cards starring X-Men 2099. 6-card pack
81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95

TC221F: MARVEL METAL '95: 8-card packs of the Marvel Universe in metallic. Inaugural packs include: one Silver Flasher card per pack, 18 Metal Blaster cards (1 : 2 packs approx), 18 Gold Blaster card (1 : 3 packs) 8 card pack
£1 06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25



TC221H: MARVEL UNIVERSE I: The first Impel Series in 1990 (before Impel became Skybox). 162 cards make up the series and there are 5 randomly inserted Holograms. These trading cards are copyright 1990 and have long been unavailable. That does not stop us offering them to you at a realistic pack price of just
81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95
(12 cards per pack)

TC221J: MARVEL UNIVERSE II: The second series of 162 cards and another 5 randomly inserted Holograms from Impel. Price per pack of 12 cards
£1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25



TC221K: MARVEL UNIVERSE III: the third series (now Skybox) is 200 cards with 5 random holograms. Price per pack of 12 cards £1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25

You've all read and heard about the **MARVEL OVERPOWER COLLECTIBLE CARD GAME.**

Now here's your chance to experience this, the ultimate Marvel Fantasy Card Game. We have obtained a number of Starter Decks. Each Starter Deck contains 55 collectible Game Cards, a Rulebook and 7 collectible Mission Cards. There are SIX varieties of starter deck, each variety comes with a different Team of four heroes/villains. Each player needs a deck with a different team, each intent on completing their mission and determined to stop the other player from completing theirs. Starter decks can cost anywhere between £5 and £10 depending on scarcity. Our availability is:

TC222A: MUTANTS UNITE: Storm, Rogue, Gambit, Bishop
£3.36 + 59p VAT =.....£3.95

TC222B: SWORN TO PROTECT: Professor X, Cyclops, Jean Grey, Jubilee £3.36 + 59p VAT =....£3.95

TC222C: CLOBBERIN' TIME: Thing, War Machine, Spiderwoman, Thor: £3.36 + 59p VAT = ...£3.95

TC222D: DEADLY FOES: Sabretooth, Deadpool, Hobgoblin, Dr Octopus:
£6.77 + £1.18 VAT = ...£7.95

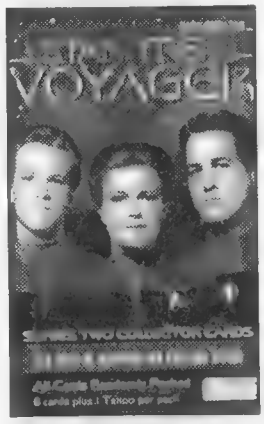
TC222F: LETHAL ALLIES: Dr Doom, Carnage, Omega Red, Rhino: £8.47 + £1.48 VAT = £9.95

BOOSTER PACKS: We've also got very limited quantities of the Overpower Booster packs which contain rare, uncommon (and some common) character & event cards. There's 4 different packs of 9 cards each, with a different pictured hero on the packaging. This exterior image does not indicate what the contents are: **TC222M: OVERPOWER BOOSTERS** 9 cards per pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25

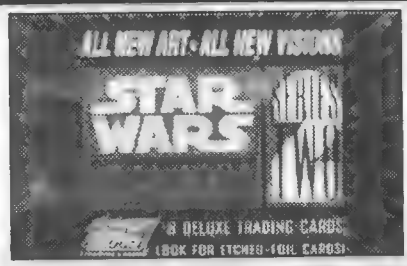
Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TC232A: MORTAL KOMBAT STARTER DECK: From the arcades to the in-house games units to the inside of your mind, Mortal Kombat is not just another martial arts tournament, its a challenge that comes to you from the deepest realms of the outworld, where the fate of the Earth is to be decided in a lethal arena of pain and skill. This 60-card Starter Pack from the 300-card Red Border Edition thrusts you dead ahead into the ultimate card game adrenaline rush.
£3.36 + 59p VAT = ...£3.95
TC232B: MORTAL COMBAT BOOSTER PACKS. 15-card packs of randomly selected rare, uncommon and regular MK Kard Game cards. Each expansion card set 64p + 11p VAT = ..£0.75
TC232M: MORTAL KOMBAT TRADING CARDS: From Skybox 8 cards per foil pack, produced in conjunction with the makers of the MK movie, New Line. Limited editions include Red Foil Kombat Kards (1 : 9 ratio) and Foil Embossed Warrior Champion cards (1 : 18 pack ratio) 21p + 4p VAT = ...£0.25
TC251: PEPSI COLA CARDS SERIES 2: Don't miss the second series of PEPSI COLA cards, 100 all-different images from the archives of Pepsi. Great advertising and promotional art from the long history of America's 'other' soft drink maker comes packed in a display box that's a tin! 10 chromium PEPSI COLA cards are randomly inserted. Each box contains 36 packs, each pack 8 cards.
TC251: Single pack of 8 cards, 64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75
TC371: MASTERS OF JAPANESE ANIMATION 1: ROBOT CARNIVAL
Hooray for Anime! The best selling film ROBOT CARNIVAL resulted from the contributions of Japan's finest animation studios, all creating their own robot fantasies - monsters and made scientists, lovers, dancers, wild theme parks and hellish caverns. Cornerstone provides an overview of the movie and the exotic variety of styles in it with this new series of 81 cards. The borderless, UV coated cards use images taken directly from the original animation cels. A special chase card set is randomly inserted. Each box contains 36 packs, each pack 10 cards.
TC371: Single pack of 10 cards. 64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75
TC411: SERGIO ARAGONES' GROO TRADING CARDS:
8 cards per pack. The misadventuring warrior 'hero' of cult status in his own series of cards.

Look for the limited 'Images of Groo' (1 : 7 pack ratio) and autographed cards (total 500) and original sketches (total 50).
64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75
TC415X: SPAWN TRADING CARDS: Todd MacFarlane's multi-million dollar concept comes to the trading card medium in 8 card packs (150 total in series) with special edition painted cards (ratio 1 : 9 packs), action figure cards (ratio 1:18), McFarlane new art cards (1:36) and the rare Todd Chrome cards (1:360) and autographed cards (these are Spawn Trading Cards, not the movie cards).
£1.28 + 22p VAT = ...£1.50

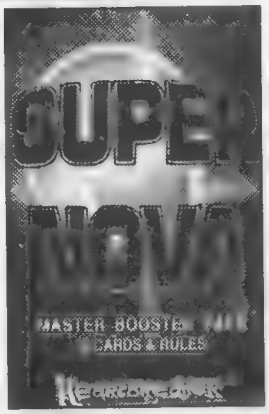


TC424: STAR TREK VOYAGER: Season One: Series Two Cards: From Skybox, chronicling voyagers first steps home through the Gamma Quadrant, coming to terms with their predicament (75 years from home at full speed) and their unknown surroundings. Includes XenoBio Spectrra-etch cards (1:12 pack ratio), Scratch N Sniff recipe cards from Nelix's 'alternative' ship's galley (1:12 ratio) and a tattoo card in every 8 card pack.
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25
TC442C: STAR WARS MASTER VISIONS: From Topps A complete set of the full 36 art cards (6 1/2 x 10 3/16) from Lucas Film's photo archives, rendered by such luminaries as Dave Dorman, the Hildrebrandt Bros., John Van Fleet and the classic original 'Revenge of the Jedi' design by Bill Sienkiewicz.
£34.00 + £5.95 VAT = ... £39.95
TC444B: STAR WARS GALAXY II: The adventure continues! Get this new collection of 135 cards with extraordinary visions of the STAR WARS saga. Besides art from Starlin, Portacio, Truman, Kirby, Grell.



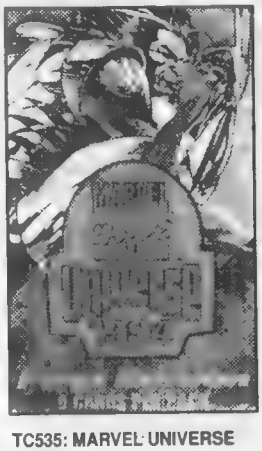
Bolton, Pacella, Jae Lee, Kelly Jones, Dave Gibbons, Michael Allred and more, this set includes rare art from the Lucasfilm archives (including Kenner development art and a pen drawing of Obi Wan Kenobi by actor Alec Guiness). One unique subset features 13 year old Marvel Comics pin-up art from Michael Golden, John Byrne, Frank Miller, Bob Layton and more.
A Tales of the Jedi subset takes fans back 4000 years to the early days of the Republic and the Jedi Knights. Walt Simonson continues his Star War panorama with six brand new etched foil insert cards that join the set from the first series. Each box contains 36 packs; each pack 8 cards.
TC444B: Single pack of 8 cards £1.06 +19p VAT = ... £1.25

TC471: MAN OF STEEL PLATINUM REGULAR 'RED' EDITION: The regular Collectors edition features the same art as the PREMIUM edition but in an affordable format with UV coated fronts only. 6 special "spectra-etch" card are randomly inserted. Each box contains 36 packs, each pack 6 cards. Single pack of 6 Collectors "RED" edition 64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75
TC472: MAN OF STEEL PLATINUM PREMIUM SILVER: Top artists contribute to this set from 1994 that tells the story of Superman, from his comic book beginnings, to his death and return. The set features 90 oversize (2 1/2" x 4 1/2") cards with foil and 'steel plate' embossed borders (for a rivetted metal look) framing original, fully painted artwork. All cards are fully UV coated. Four randomly inserted 'forged in steel' cards feature all-foil fronts with detailed etching and embossing. A rare Man of Steel SkyDisc that shows Clark Kent transforming into Superman is also randomly inserted. Even the display box uses foil 'steel' board with embossed design. Each box contains 24 packs; each pack 6 cards.
TC472: Single Pack of Premium Silver Cards
£1.28 + 22p VAT = ...£1.50
TC473: SUPER NOVA COLLECTIBLE CARD GAME. A collectible trading card game of intergalactic expansion and conquest. Players discover and compete for control of new planets. Power is wielded militarily, diplomatically and economically - with the occasional natural disaster thrown in. The



player that creates the biggest empire is the victor. Super Nova plays great as a multi-player game and has an interesting selection of cards featuring spectacular planets, bizarre aliens, powerful ships, mercenaries and more! Future supplements will feature even more fantastic aliens, ships, planets and other speciality cards. These expansions will enable players to expand their empires even further, while crushing all adversaries. The first printing of Super Nova is a limited edition version with black borders. These borders will be removed in future printings. The first printing consists of 165 different cards (100 common, 35 uncommon and 30 rare), Super Nova is supplied in "Master Booster Packs". Each MBP contains 18 cards (15 common, 2 uncommon and 1 rare) and a rules/instruction book.
To play Super Nova at least 6 packs are required. Super Nova Master Booster Packs have an SRP of $2.95 per pack. From The Warehouse the pack price is 42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49 per pack of 18 cards.
(Remember you need at least 6 packs to play.)
TC495: FLEER 95: ULTRA FOX KIDS NETWORK FOIL. Kids rate the Fox Kids Network number one. Over here most of the output of the Fox net-

work (Murdoch owned) is transmitted on Satellite (also Murdoch owned). This 150 card set samples five Fox favourites: THE TICK, SPIDERMAN, X-MEN, EEKISTRAVAGANZA and Bobby's World. Everyone will want the 24 Power Pop-Up cards, and with one in every pack they aren't hard to find. Ten Suspended Animation cell cards are randomly inserted. Each pack holds 8 cards.
Price per pack
42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49
TC500: WETWORKS CHROMIUM TRADING CARDS:
7 cards per pack,
24 packs per box: a box would normally cost your around £50.
Warehouse Price :
£19.53 + £3.42 VAT = ...£22.95
just 96p per pack -
available as BOXES only.
TC506A: FLEER ULTRA X-MEN ALL-CHROMIUM
That mighty mutant menagerie, the X-MEN, get drenched in chromium and treated to the artistic talents of the Kubert family, Adam, Andy and Joe, all in the same 100-card series. A randomly inserted Gold Foil Signature Series parallels the regular set with an added artist's foil stamped signature. A 20-card embossed set featuring characters from Age of Apocalypse is seeded 1 per 2 packs, and a 9 card HoloFlash set with the most dangerous X-Men in action comes 1 per 6 packs.
Each box has 36 packs; each pack 8 cards.
TC506A: Single pack of 8 cards £1.32 + 23p VAT = ...£1.55
TC512: MAVERICK MOVIE TRADING CARDS:
60 card collection in packs from the adventure/comedy/western that starred Mad Mel Gibson as Brett Maverick with TV Maverick James Garner as (to ruin the 'Surprise') Maverick Senior, plus Jodie Foster as the devilish young card sharp who gets the better of both of them.
42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49
TC519: JAMES BOND 007 SECOND SERIES: Trading collector cards from the period in Bond film making when Roger Moore took over from Sean Connery via George Lazerby. You Only Live Twice, Diamonds Are Forever, On Her Majesty's Secret Service and Live and Let Die. Featuring a 'Bond Girl' 6-card subset. 10 card pack.
£2.13 + 37p VAT = ...£2.50



TC535: MARVEL UNIVERSE 1994: Regular cards in a 199-card set, plus check list plus 23 limited edition insert cards First edition packs. 9 card per pack, 36 packs per box.
Pack price
£1.06 + 19p VAt = ...£1.25

Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TC537: MARVEL UNIVERSE FLAIR '94: Inaugural edition 10-card packs of the Marvel Universe from 1961-1993. 149 cards to the base set, plus the checklist, plus 18 limited edition insert cards (ratio 1 : 2 packs) 10 card pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25

TC600: BATMAN FOREVER MOVIE STICKERS: From Topps. Batman, Robin, Two-Face & The Riddler caught in action stills from the third hit Batman Flick. Look for the 4 randomly inserted chromium stickers
21p + 4p VAT = ...£0.25

TC1041: BORIS IV FANTASY TRADING CARDS:
Boris Vallejo's magnificent myths, an adult-oriented set of 10-card packs for collectors. Arranged by Comic Images, this series contains many rare and seldom glimpsed works of mythic beats, vivid landscapes, masculine power and feminine perfection as rendered by the detailed and imaginative brushwork of a master. Bonuses include Holochrome, Autographed and Medallion cards, plus Sci-Fi Sensations, a 3 card subset and miniature press sheet.
64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75

TC1043: JULIE BELL FANTASY ART CARDS:
Trading card selection of painstaking painted artwork, illuminating Julie Bell's craftsman (craftsperson?)-ship and established mastery of fluid anatomical motion. Containing some mature subject matter, these 8-card packs feature randomly packaged tekchrome and autographed cards.
£1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25

TC1044: BORIS II FANTASY ART CARDS:
The second series of Boris Vallejo's adult sci-fit fantasy artwork in trading card form.
10-card packs
£1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25

TC1083: PAUL CHADWICK FANTASY CARDS. Sci-fi and fantasy painted art by the creator of Dark Horse's CONCRETE. Paul shows the breadth of his artistic diversity with this 90-card set, available in 8-card packs. Included are random 'metallic' and autographed pieces.
£1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25

TC1141: JC LEYENDECKER PREMIUM TRADING CARDS: JCL's illustrations delighted millions in the first part of this century as publishing became a homing beacon to glamour and celebrity. Before the silver screen hearthrobs, the newspaper and magazine artists commanded their own media status, and paramount among these for almost 40 years was J C Leyendecker. We have special 8-card packs of the illustrator's work.
64p + 11p VAT £0.75

TC1401: KEN KELLY COLLECTION 2: From FPG, celebrated fantasy artist Ken Kelly delivers a second 90-card series of biceps and bastard-swords with 10 immaculately rendered warrior trading cards in each pack.
42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49

TC1402: MICHAEL KALUTA FANTASY CARDS SERIES ONE: A 90-card collection of Michael's astonishingly detailed and original fantasy artwork, pulled from a career in comics and book illustration (plus many individual works for collections and anthologies) that has spanned many years and made his name synonymous with quality, precision and creativity.
10 card packs:42p + 7p VAT £0.49

TC1403: MICHAEL KALUTA FANTASY CARDS SERIES TWO: Another 90-card series of 10 card packs, representing much of Michael's more recent work that has become less overtly physical in nature, concentrating more on emotional nuances and delicate expressionism. This kind of work is typified by his recent comic cover illustrations and contributions to Tolkien artwork anthologies.
42p + 7p VAT £0.49

TC1481: DON MAITZ FANTASY CARDS: Warlords and warlocks contest for the powers of the multiverse within Don Maitz's powerful 90-card fantasy series of painted artwork including randomly inserted 'metallic storm' and autographed cards, available in 10-card packs
49p + 7p VAT £0.49

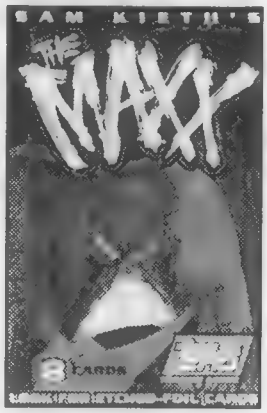
TC1482: RON MILLERS' FIREBRANDS FANTASY CARD SERIES Comic Images present Ron Miller's trading card series of adult-oriented fabled femmes and sci-fi starlets that includes the 'Winged Women' 3-card subset somewhere amongst the packs of 10 heroic card images.
64p + 11p VAT £0.75

TC1601: KEITH PARKINSON FANTASY ART CARDS: Another 90 card series from FPG, spotlighting sword & sorcery illustrator Keith Parkinson, renowned for his attention to detail (you can really see each dragon scale and each link of chainmail) and the idiosyncratic humour of his characters.
10 cards per pack, as usual with FPG. 42p + 7p VAT £0.49

TC1723: SACHS & VIOLENS TRADING CARDS: manufactured by Comic Images, taken from the Marvel mature reader 4-issue comic by Peter David and legendary artist George Perez. These packs of 10 contain much of George's work for the project, plus new material.
£1.15 + 20p VAT £1.35

TC1881: TIM WHITE FANTASY ART TRADING CARDS: 10-card packs that form another 90-card series from FPG: Tim White is a horror artist of great standing, having delivered much Cthulhu Mythos artwork for Lovecraft collections and role-playing games. Haunting, visceral and sometimes disturbing, Tim's artwork places him as the definitive contemporary Cthulhu illustrator: 42p + 7p VAT £0.49

TC3281: HITCH HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY TRADING CARDZ: Don't panic! With these 8-card packs, Douglas Adams cult sci-fi classic comes to the trading card arena with artwork and commentary plus random tekchrome and autographed cards. 8 card pack
42p + 7p VAT £0.49



TC3481: THE MAXX TRADING CARDS: Featuring 2 etched-foil cards in each 36 pack rotation, this Topps series of 8-card packs comes from Sam Kieth's mean, funny, unique comic series The Maxx £1.06 + 19p VAT = ..£1.25

TC3761: WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWORLD TRADING CARDS: Futuristic 100-card series based on Bill's hardnosed heroics in the sci-fi concept he came up with that has appeared as a comic, a TV series, and a set of books. 8 cards per pack.
21p + 4p VAT £0.25

TC5723: JUDGE DREDD SPUGS. In mega-City, circa the 22nd century, the game of POGs is alive and well. Only they call them SPUGS. Oh, and by the way citizen, they're illegal! With 50 different ugly, gruesome JUDGE DREDD images and 10 special effects SPUGS prepare for a slammin' good time.
Each box contains 24 packs, each pack contains 5 SPUGS, 4 regular SPUGS and 1 SpugCredit SPUG.
Single pack of JD SPUGS
49p + 7p VAT £0.49

TC5725: POLITICARDS 96
A pack of regular playing cards, hearts, spades, diamonds, clubs on the fronts of which are 54 caricatures of 54 American politicians and media personalities from Oliver North and David Letterman, to Bill Clinton and Louis Farrakhan.
£1.66 + 29p VAT =.....£1.95

TC6000 FLAIR 1995 MARVEL ANNUALS
The major events of the Marvel Universe in 1994 - the debut of War Machine and Generation X, the introduction of the Marvel Select fully painted format, and much more ~ are treated to computer enhanced art and six-colour printing, and presented on the 24-point stock of FLAIR brand. With film lamination and gold foil stamping, these are production-intensive non-sport cards. ANNUALS has 150 regular cards and over 50 chase cards; 24 Power Blast cards with improved foil-etched process and original art by Pie Design per pack), 12 Chromium cards with original art by Jim Balent (approx 1 in every other pack), 12 Holoblast cards that use computer generated images with 3-D holograms (approx 1 per 3 packs). Each box contains 24 packs, each pack 10 cards.
Single pack of 10 cards
£1.66 + 29p VAT £1.95

TC6020: '95 FLEER ULTRA X-MEN These mighty mutants rule Comicdom, and this new 150 card set with 3 X-citing subsets - O-Overs (Major storylines painted by the Hildebrants), Spring Break (Luis Royo's rendition of mutants at play), and Greatest Battles (Major confrontations of the X-Men mythos captured by Tim & Greg Hildebrandt) shows why. All regular cards have gold and holographic foil stamping, and UV coating. Three chase sets - Power Blast (etched foil to enhance 9 works by Dave DeVries) Suspended Animation (10 plastic cards, 4 of which feature the characters front and back), and Chromium (Fleer's first chromium set with Bell and Vellejo art on ten cards). Glenn Fabry, Lou Harrison, Cathleen Thole, Robert Rodriguez, John Romita Sr., Ray Lago, Peter Scanlan, Gary Ciccarelli, and Nelson also contribute to the mutant montage. Each box contains 36 packs each pack 10 cards. Single pack of 10 cards
£1.66 + 29p VAT = ...£1.95

TC6052: EMPIRE STRIKES BACK Metal 20-card Set in Collector's Tin: The magic of George Lucas' Star Wars Trilogy continues with this set of 20 cards from the middle movie (known as the darker of the three). Using images taken from the actual film cels, these full-colour metal cards also have text on the backs. They are packaged in an equally beautiful embossed collectors tin. Each comes with a certificate of authenticity.
£30.64 + £5.36 VAT = ...£36.00

TC7055: MAGIC: THE GATHERING VISIONS EXPANSION CARDS: The evil sorcerer Kaervek casts the shadow of his hand over Jamuraa as his legions teem across the and. Only a tiny band of warriors, guided by the dream messages they must decode, stand between Kaervek and his terrible destiny. They are on a mission to free the Wizard Mangara the only man who can best Kaervek. Join the dreamquest to find the Wizard, and help in the fight to liberate Kamuraa. These 15-card packs form a mighty expansion set to both Magic: The Gathering and Mirage. Single pack of 15 cards. £1.49 + 26p VAT £1.75

TH207: ANI-MAYHEM CARD GAME: Ready-to-play base game set of 75 cards starring Anime characters from El Hazard, Ranma 1/2 and Terchi Muyo plunged into a mad dash around the collapsing Aniverse for valuable scattered items. However, the hunt is made more dangerous by rampaging robots and the firm but friendly traffic cops. £4.21 + 74p VAT £4.95

TH211: ART OF CURVES FANTASY ART CARDS: "Good Girl" pin up artwork collection of 100 cards by Todd Borenstein. Featuring three 9-card panels and 8 checklist cards amongst the 9-card packs. Plus, 4 randomly packaged special prism cards. 9-cards per pack.
64p + 11p VAT £0.75

TH215: BARB WIRE DELUXE TRADING CARDS: Beautiful, blonde and bad. Dark Horse and Pamela Anderson have joined forces to make the gun-slingin' nightclub-owner of a post-holocaust Earth recognisable in almost every home. Featuring movie stills, laser-cut and embossed cards, plus new Barb Wire artwork and 'bad girl beginnings' (the origins of the babe - oops! I said it! - in comicdom). 9-cards per pack
81p + 14p VAT £0.95

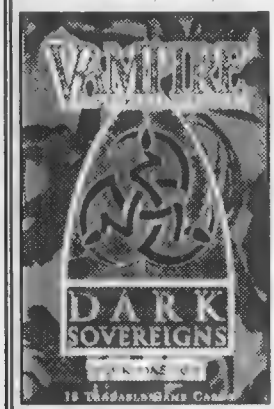
TH222: ALIEN WORLD OF WAYNE BARLOWE COLLECTOR CARDS: Welcome to the new Wayne's World, a fantasy-land of terrible extraterrestrials and spectacular sci-fi. Designed by Comic Images, these packs of 10 cards offer the chance of randomly packed Galaxy cards, autographs, medallions and space traveller subsets. 10-card pack 42p + 7p VAT £0.49

TH242: ADVENTURES OF BATMAN & ROBIN TRADING CARDS: From SkyBox, taken from Warner's popular and acclaimed animated TV series which has proved that cartoons made in America can be every bit as challenging and original as their Japanese counterparts. These 8-card packs capture the dark menace underlying the fast-paced adventures of the Batman and Robin. 8-card pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25

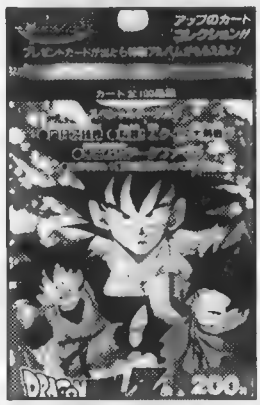
TH245: ART OF CHIODO PAINTED TRADING CARDS: The first ever collection by award-winning artist Joe Chiodo, detailing the adventures of the WildStorm Women through history in 72 cards and also featuring an 18-card asortment of Joe's best-loved book covers and comics designs. 8-card packs
£1.15 + 20p VAT =.....£1.35

Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TH252: BETTIE PAGE PREMIUM CARDS: Bunny Yaeger's most famous model of the 1950's, Bettie Page, in this 50-card collection of premium trading cards. 8 cards per pack.
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25
TH254: R. CRUMB TRADING CARD PACK: A full 36 card box set from Kitchen Sink, with colour artwork for adults only, showing some of Crumb's creations and explaining much about the underground creator's inspirations and strange life. 36 card box £6.38 + £1.12 VAT = ..£.7.50



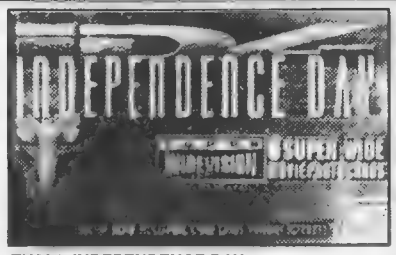
TH257: VAMPIRE: DARK SOVEREIGNS BOOSTER PACKS: This is an expansion set for White Wolf's storytelling game 'Jyhad' (Vampire: The Eternal Struggle) based on the role play phenomenon 'Vampire: The Masquerade" which takes much of its tone and style from the contemporary movie and literary approaches to Vampire mythology (Francis Ford Copolla, Anne Rice, Wendy Snow-Lang). To use these 15 card packs, you should already have the basic deck.
42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49
TH263: COSMIC CARDS INAUGURAL TRADING CARDS: A massive 180 card set in 12 card packs, with the DC Comics 'Hero Heritage' line showing modern age superheroes like The Flash, Green Lantern, Hawkman and Superman. Also features 10 DC Hall of Fame holograms, randomly packs. 12-card individual pack 81p + 14p VAT= £0.95
TC266: DR WHO TRADING CARD GAME STARTER PACK: The 60 card starter deck that leads you into a time-spanning adventure with the Lords of Gallifrey as they strive to bring order to a war-torn universe populated by such diverse and threatening races as the Daleks and The Cybermen. The game encompasses 300 common, uncommon, rare and ultra-rare cards, available in these starter packs and the booster packs that follow. 60-card starter deck.
£2.13 + 32p VAT= £2.50
TH267: DR WHO CARD CAME BOOSTER PACKS: 12-card Black Border Edition expansion packs 81p + 14p VAT =.....£0.95
TH271: DOOM TROOPER CARD GAME STARTER DECK: From Heartbreaker, a techno-fantasy game that thrusts the player off the planet's surface and into a futureverse of mega-corporations and extra-terrestrial colonisation, made lethal by the sudden appearance of the Dark Legion - a gruesome race of bloodlusting creatures with mankind in their deadly scopes. The 60 card starter module contains rules of play and instructions for customising your deck to provide an infinite number of games.
£1.66 + 29p VAT = ...£1.95
TH275: DOUBLE IMPACT ALL-CHROMIUM COLLECTOR CARDS: The sexy mercenary duo of China & Jazz, from High Impact Studios, created by artist Ricky Carralero. Each pack contains 7 chromium cards with the possibility of randomly inserted magnachrome chase cards, autographed cards, a 3-card omnichrome subset and (wait for it) the much-coveted 'Buttshots' subset. 7-card pack
£1.15 + 20p VAT = ...£1.35
TH281: DRAGONBALLZ HERO COLLECTION. Manga trading cards in original Japanese
£1.32 + 23p VAT = ...£1.55



TH283: DRAGONHEART MOVIE TRADING CARDS: Digitally mastered from the fantasy motion picture starring Dennis Quaid and (I'm sure about this) the last real dragon, who sounds rather like Sean Connery. Widevision packs that feature stills from the movie itself, with computer special effects that are so good that I still hold that the producers really did get a dragon for this film.
81p + 14p = ...£0.95

TH286: DRAGONS OF FURY MARTIAL ARTS CARD GAME: One-on-one arcade style action featuring a detailed rule book, 8 fighter cards, a reference sheet and 108 colour playing cards
This is fully self-contained and there are no booster packs needed. £7.62 + £1.33 VAT = ...£8.95
TH295: FANTASY ADVENTURES STARTER DECK: Your journey into the world of fiendish Darklords begins with this starter set of 100 non-randomised cards with dice and 'How to Play' guide
£4.21 + 74p VAT = ... £4 95
TH301: FATAL BEAUTY COLLECTOR CARDS: Don Paresi's mature 8--card packs from the Illustration Studio featuring the best in vampires, assassins, warrior women and stunning femme fatales. 8 card pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25
TH352: GALACTIC EMPIRES is a sci fi strategy trading card game in which you battle to eliminate your opponents sector HQ's to eventually conquer and control the galaxy. The three starter packs have separate 50 card games for 2-players.
STARTER PACK A:
£3.36 + 59p VAT= £3.95
TH353: GALACTIC EMPIRES STARTER PACK B:
£3.36 + 59p VAT= £3.95
TH354: GALACTIC EMPIRES STARTER PACK C
£3.36 + 59p VAT= £3.95
TH362: GEN 13 '96 TRADING CARDS: Image's superteen

superteam sensation return in a 90-card set of trading cards with random Gen-Alloy cards plus info on the planned Gen 13 movie. Artwork by such Image luminaries as Jim Lee, J Scott Campbell, Mike Wieringo plus Brian Stelfreeze and others. 8 card pack £1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25:
TH365: GHOST COLLECTOR CARDS: 24 part, 72 card series following the Dark Horse character, murdered investigative reporter Elisa Cameron, in her pursuit of vengeance. More than a few surprises, too, including never-seen artwork, chromium cards and autographs by Eric Luke. 8 card pack:
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25
TH381: HYBOREAN GATES STARTER PACKS: The card game where magic and science meet and you battle to control the six dimensions, illustrated by fantasy artists such as Julie Bell and Boris Vallejo.
Each starter deck contains 55 randomly sorted cards plus rule book and dimension map.
Starter Deck
£3.36 + 59p VAT= £3.95



TH384: INDEPENDENCE DAY MOVIE CARDS; fight back with these super-widescreen 6-card packs of movie trading cards which feature randomly distributed Holo-foil chase cards (1:9 pack ratio). 6-card pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25:
TH392: JAMES BOND 007 GOLDENEYE CARD GAME: Pierce Brosnan crashes headlong into the first Bond movie for some years. The film was a deserved great success, and Brosnan proved himself a good choice for the 007 role, combining action humour, and a brilliantly self-parodying 'retro' take on the character. In this card game based on Pierce's first outing with a licence to kill, you assign te missions and compete (with help from a broad (!) female contingent and Q's techno-gadgetry) to foil the villains plans. The 60 card starter decks are taken from the complete 208-card collection (including some ultra-rare chase cards) and the others are obtainable through our many booster packs. Starter Deck
£3.36 + 59p VAT= £3.95
TH393: GOLDENEYE BOOSTER PACKS: 15 card expansion sets 81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95
TH407: A JURASSIC PARK DELUXE GOLD SERIES:
A Topps trading card series with movie stills, comics art and 2 holograms in every 36 packs
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ... £1.25
TH422: JACK KIRBY UNPUBLISHED ARCHIVES COLLECTOR CARDS: From Comic Images, we have a limited number of these 10 card packs which make up the whole 90 card collection of never-seen retrospective Kirby classics. Among the gems are precious finds indeed, including six 'unsung heroes' chromium cards, 'The Villains' 3-card subset, a rare medallion card and an ultra-rare 24-karat gold signature card.
£1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25
TH429: LAST ACTION HERO TRADING CARDS: Arnie leaps out of the cinema screen (literally) in this big-budget adventure yarn about real heroes, fictional or otherwise. Each pack features movie cards and stickers, and be

on the lookout for the 2 holo-foil cards in every 36 packs;
64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75

TH509: MAGIC THE GATHERING 'FALLEN EMPIRES' BOOSTER PACKS: Far from the Wars, the lords of Sarapadia once prospered. But economics crumble and empires collapse. As the situation worsened, hideous new species began to evolve in the forests and seas, forcing the Sarapadians to fight for their lives - sometimes their immortal souls. These 8-card packs expand your knowledge of Dominia into the lethal lands of the Fallen Empires. 8-card pack
85p + 15p VAT = ...£1.00
TH515: MAGIC "MIRAGE" DECKMASTER: Playable as part of the Dominia system or as a stand-alone card campaign. Within the lush continent of Jamuraa, discover the civilisations and creatures who thrive in the tropical climate. Magic and traditions that date back countless centuries lie beneath the burning sun here, potent forces ready to be tapped.
STARTER DECK
£4.68 + 82p VAT = ...£5.50
TH516: MAGIC "MIRAGE" BOOSTER PACKS: 15-card expansion packs for the Mirage deckmaster campaign
£1.49 + 26p VAT = ...£1.75
TH652: ON THE EDGE STARTER DECK: A trading card game of surreal conspiracy theory. You adopt the role of an arch-conspirator vying for supremacy on the island of Al Amarja. Resources and inhabitants may be at your disposal, including strange alien technology. Fully self-contained, with 60 cards plus rulebook. STARTER DECK
£3.36 + 59p VAT= £3.95
TH704: PLAYBOY CENTREFOLD COLLECTOR CARDS - APRIL SELECTION: 40 years of April Playmate Pictorials, Centrefolds, celebrities and covers; with randomly inserted Playmate of the Year Cards, Gold Foil Celebrity Cards, Autograph Cards and Preview Cards: Each pack contains 10 cards (nudity warning).
Cost per pack of 10 cards
81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95
TH705: PLAYBOY CENTREFOLD COLLECTOR CARDS - MAY SELECTION. Centrefolds, pictorials and celebrities with the same random inserts as April only this time from 40 years of the month of May in Playboy. Each pack contains 10 cards (nudity warning).
Cost per pack of 10 cards
81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95
Please note this reminder: Playboy Cards are for over 18's only: Age Statement Mandatory.
TH706: PLAYBOY CENTREFOLD COLLECTOR CARDS - JUNE SELECTION: Our third series of 10-card packs in the same format as the April & May editions. (Nudity alert:) Once again we stress the need for an Age Statement when ordering these products. 10-card pack at
81p + 14p VAT = ...£0.95

The Comics Warehouse

This advertisement expires on March 31st 1998. All prices are per Copy or per Set.

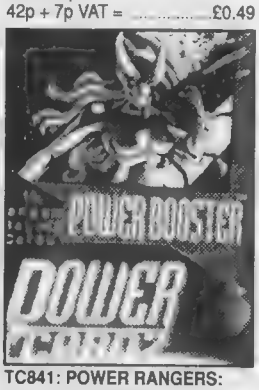
Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TH751: PLAYBOY CHROMIUM COVER CARDS SERIES II: Generaltions of men have followed where Hugh Hefner's PLAYBOY magazine has led. Gather up another 100 examples of stylish and provocative Playboy covers, reproduced here in chromium. An 18-card holochrome insert set highlights illustrated covers. A redemption card good for a 12 card holochrome celebrity cover set appears once in 12 boxes, and a Hugh Hefner autographed card turns up once in every 36 boxes (a gold facsimile autograph card comes up once im 12 boxes). Each pack has 6 cards. Each pack is £1.28 + 22p VAT = £1.50

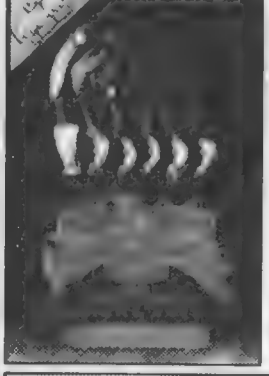
TH755: PLAYBOY "PAM" COLLECTOR SERIES: Barb Wire herself, the ex-Baywatcher that Coca-Cola fashioned a bottle in the likeness of. Pamela Anderson and Playboy team up in this collection of 10-card packs to bring the cult of Pam into the trading card arena. Each 10-card pack 81p + 14p VAT = £0.95

TH802: POWER CARDZ STARTER DECK: The "Definitive Super-Powered Collectible Card Game" from Caliber Game Systems, inviting players to assemble a deck from the starter pack (and them from the booster packs too) that represents his'her personalised collection of heroes, villains, plus enhancements.
Starter Deck (50 cards & rules of play) £2.51 + 44p VAT = £2.95

TC803: POWER CARDZ POWER BOOSTERS: 15- card booster packs that include the common, uncommon, rare and ultra-rare cards that eventually give players a ful 300-card set. 15-card pack
42p + 7p VAT = £0.49



TC841: POWER RANGERS: THE MOVIE FLEER '95 PREMIERE EDITION. Mighty Morphin trading card action from the Rangers successful motion picture debut. 8-card packs featuring one pwer pop-up in every pack. 8-card pack
55p + 10p VAT = £0 65



TH848: BEST OF ROWENA CHROMIUM CARDS: 90-card fantasy artwork series. 7 cards in each pack, all-chromium painted work by the imaginative, inventive artist Rowena. With randomly packaged Gold Holochrome cards. 7-card pack
64p + 11p VAT = £0.75

TH852: SHADOWFIST STANDARD EDITION STARTER DECK: Evil scientists, a future police state, vat-grown abominations and Hopping Vampires. They're all out to get you and all you've got is a bad attitude and some Shaolin warrior training. Oh, okay, and the pssibility of some Attack Helicopters. This 60-card starter deck contains a selection of the cards available, from common to rare, that will enable you to begin slamming the Shadows. Starter deck
£4.21 + 74p VAT = £4.95

TH856: SHOWDOWN IN THE BADLANDS FIGHTING CARD GAME: You're the Heavy Gear Fighter in this Mecha-assault game that includes everything you need in one pack: stat sheets, playing cards, reference material & rules
£6.77 + £1.18 VAT = £7.95

TH861: SPAWN CHROMIUM TRADING CARDS: 90 card series from WildStorm. The assortment includes cover galleries from Spawn, Angela and the Violator comics. Rare cards include 9 stills from the movie and 1 Spawn Morph card (ratio 1:24 packs). New featured art by Greg Capullo, Jim Lee and Todd McFarlane. 8-card pack
£1.28 + 22p VAT = £1 50

TH872: SPELLFIRE: MASTER THE MAGIC BOOSTER PACKS SET I: Heat up the card-game featuring the best-loved and most played AD&D game scenarios and world systems with these 15-card pack boosters. Spells, items, monsters and characters. 15-card pack
64p + 11p VAT = £0.75

TH874: SPELLFIRE: MASTER THE MAGIC BOOSTER PACKS SET VI: A sixth booster series for theAD&D Spellfire card game. 120-card series of 15-card packs. Each pack
64p + 11p VAT = £0 75

TH875: SPELLFIRE: MASTER THE MAGIC BOOSTER PACK SET VII: UNDERDARK: Go underground with dark magic and the silent, reclusive Drows in this new 125-card serie to add to the Spellfire trading card game. 15 cards per pack. Each pack
64p + 11p VAT = £0.75

TH901: STAR QUEST: REGENCY WARS STARTER DECK: A 53-card starter pack with rules of engagement to start your war campaign in the ultra high-tech world of the Regency. Starter pack
£3.36 + 59p VAT = £3.95

TH912: STAR TREK: GENE RODDENBERRY BOXED SET: A full set of the 16 card packs that were distributed to fans and TV stations as a promotional tool for the show and the films between 1974-1987. Very limited numbers exist, and we have a very minimal number of these sets. Full box set
£16.98 + £2.97 VAT = £19.95

TH913: STAR TREK 25TH ANNIVERSARY PART I: From 1991, a full box-set of Part One of the 25th anniversary series. From Star Trek to ST:TNG, 158 cards, half from each (includes stills, portraits & comic covers). Full set:
£8.47 + £1.48 VAT = £9.95

TH914: STAR TREK; 25th ANNIVERSARY PART II: And this second set completes the series joining Star Trek with its successor. Full set
£8.47 + £1.48 = £9.95

TH921: STAR TREK 1994: SKBOX MASTER SERIES: 100-card series in 6-card packs, incudes original artwork highlighting Trek, St:TNG and ST: DS9, plus 9 random foil-enhanced cards that make up three 3-card murals by celebrated fantasy artists Joe Jusko, Boris Vallejo & Julie Bell. 6 -card pack £1.28 + 22p VAT = £1.50

TH925: STAR TREK: CLASSIC TREK: THE CARD GAME STARTER DECK: Take command of The Enterprise and beam down to random Episode card challenges with this 65 card starter pack that comes with rulebook. Starter deck
£4.21 +74p VAT = £4.95

TH928: STAR TREK: REFLECTIONS OF THE FUTURE (PHASE III) TRADING CARDS: SkyBox celebrate 30 years of Trek with this new series of 8-card packs: Features Cosmic Phenomena, creator Tribute cards, random Star Trek: The Card Game bonus cards, 3-card "3-D Motion tech" mural and 9-card Anniversary mural, plus more. Each 8 card pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT = £1.25

TH933: STAR TREK: GENERATIONS CINEMA COLLECTOR CARDS: A 72- card series chronicling the seventh Star Trek movie in which the original cast pass the mantle on to the Next Generation. Story cards, character cards, Sky Motion Exchange cards, Spectra-etched cards and foil-enhanced villain cards. 6-card pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT = £1.25

TH937: STAR TREK: TNG: CUSTOMISABLE CARD GAME STARTER DECK: White Border Edition 60-card starter pack to get you up to warp speed. Rule book included. Starter deck
£4.68 + 82p VAT = £5 50

TH935: STAR TREK:TNG: CUTOMISABLE CARD GAME: A universe of more than 360 cards, in which players generate personalised decks, custom assorted with ships, crew, aliens and missions. We have packs of the White Border Edition expansion set, with 15 cards in each, to be used by players to expand power in the Star Trek mythos. 15-card booster pack
£1.28 + 22p VAT = £1.50

TH944: STAR TREK:TNG: Q-CONTINUUM EXPANSION PACKS: A whole new series of booster packs to add to the TNG Customisable Card Game. 121-card series,
15 cards per pack. Each pack
£1.28 + 22p VAT = £1.50

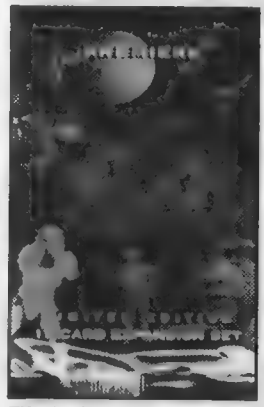
TH948: STAR TREK: TNG EPISODE COLLECTION SEASON II: A 96-card set highlighting the Enterprise's voyages from 1988-89. Never before seen digital imagery, a 9-card mural, 6 foil-embossed special cards, profile subsets on Riker & Counsellor Troi and 2 very limited holograms. 8-card pack
£1.06 + 19p VAT = £1.25

TH951: STAR TREK: VOYAGER SERIES I: Trading cards from the latest Trek incarnation, the bio-organic Federation Starship that is transported to an uncharted quandrant by the mysterious 'caretaker' It's crew, a motley assortment of Federation, Freedom-fighting Marquis, and new alien characters begin the journey home here, chronicled in this 98-card set of 8-card packs. Special cards include SkyMotion Exchange Cards, Expand-A cards, and an Emergency Hologram Doctor subset. 8-card pack
£1.15 + 20p VAT = £1 35

TH1102: STAR WARS METALLIC IMAGES COLLECTOR CARDS SERIES I: Production ran to a limited 49,000 sets of these metal cards, packaged in their own presentation tin, reproducing some of the most memorable scenes from the Star Wars Trilogy.
£25.49 + £4.46 VAT = £29.95

TH1120: STAR WARS CUSTOMISABLE CARD GAME: Premier Limited Edition.
60 card Starter Set with rules
£6.77 + £1.18 VAT = £7.95

TH1121: STAR WARS CUSTOMIABLE CARD GAME BOOSTER PACKS: 15 card packs to expand your personalised Star Wars Card Game deck. 15-card pack
£1.66 + 29p VAT = £1.95



TH1124: STAR WARS C.C.G. A NEW HOPE: 162 card expansion set available in packs of 15 cards. Single pack
£1.66 + 29p VAT = £1.95

TH1128: STAR WARS DARK EMPIRE EMBOSSED METAL SET: Official Metallic Impressions 24-card set featuring artwork from Dark Horse's acclaimed 6-issue comic series. Production limited to just 3,000 cases. Full set in presentation tin:
£13.61 + £2.38 VAT = £15.99

TH1129: EMPIRE STRIKES BACK WIDEVISION CARDS: Movies are better on the big screen. Now movie cards are better in WIDEVISION: Topps brings back all the key scenes from the original 1980 movie on 2.5" x 4.75" cards for the full frame 'letter box' effect. Along with Lucasfilm and the Telecine Research Centre, Topps has developed a brand new process that transfers the images directly from the master film prints. The result in unprecedented image quality. All 120 cards have holographic stamping and UV coating and TOPPS finest design is applied. Each pack 10 cards.
TH1129: Single pack of 10 cards
£2.51 + 44p VAT = £2.95

TH1133: STAR WARS FINEST SERIES I: Finest technology arrives in a galaxy far, far away. Topps presents 90 of the most interesting and important characters of the STAR WARS universe using brand-new artwork and finest chromium design - effectively creating a Star Wars character guide. Ten artists each create a 9-card sub set:
Den Beauvais (Droids), Russell Walks (Rebel Alliance Command), Lou Harrison (Spies, Smugglers and Rogues), Joe Phillips (Force Users), Chris Moeller (Imperial Command), Joe Chiodo (Jabba's Palace), Tony Harris (Mos Eisley Cantina), MarkHarrison (Imperials & Affiliates), Mark Sasso (Indigenous Life Forms), and Juda Tverski (Rebel Alliance). Ray Lago and John Van Fleet provide art for 4 'Topps Matrix' chase cards. Suggested per pack price is $2.50.
Each box has 36 packs;
each pack, 5 cards;
Single pack of 5 cards
£1.06 + 19p VAT = £1.25

Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TH1141: STAR WARS GALAXY: MILLENNIUM FALCON FACTORY SET: Now here's a Topps package that could defeat the Empire and bring back the Jedi all at once: All 140 Star Wars Galaxy Series I trading cards plus all 6 chase cards, a 3-D hologram card and exclusive card #0, as autographed Series I card and a Series II preview card, all presented with a Millennium Falcon replica for display. The whole set just £13.61 + £2.38 VAT = ...£15.99

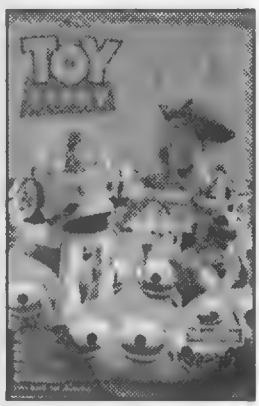
TH1145: STAR WARS GALAXY SERIES I: 8-cards per individual pack. Each pack £1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25

TH1146: STAR WARS GALAXY SERIES II: 8-cards per pack in this second series from Topps: Each pack £1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25

TH1151: STAR WARS TRILOGY SPECIAL EDITION WIDEVISION SERIES: Combining the Topps enhanced Widescreen trading card format with Lucasfilm and Industrial Light and Magic's renovation of the classic Star Wars Trilogy. A 72-card series that features stills of the new scenes added to each movie in the restorative process, from Han stepping on Jabba's tail to the gruesome demise of the Wampa to the galaxy-wide celebration at the end of Return of the Jedi. Each pack £1.66 + 29p VAT =... ....£1.95

TH1207: WILLIAM STOUT SERIES II: 90-card series spotlighting the creative talent of the artist/designer who shared the world dinosaur creations prior to Jurassic Park, added special effects and animatronics to countless films, and worked with Ralph Bakshi to produce some of the finest non-manga, non-Disney animation techniques ever. 10 cards per pack 64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75

TH1215: TOY STORY SERIES II: 11-cards per pack, with a finger puppet card, make-a-mutant card, redemption card and sticker talk card in every pack. 11-card pack 81p + 14p VAT =.....£0.95



TH1222: ULTIMATE COMBAT STARTER DECK: 60 card beginner pack to launch you into this explosive martial arts trading card game. Become the undefeated master in the 250 card game developed by devoted students of the arts. Starter deck £3.36 + 59p VAT =.. .....£3 95

TH1227: ULTRAVERSE MASTER SERIES: Malibu comics & SkyBox present the Ultraverse Master Series with acclaimed fan-fare artist Dave (Star Wars) Dorman artwork up for grabs. 6 card per pack with randomly inserted ultra cards (ratio 1:12 packs) and holithograms (1:36 packs) 6 card pack 64p + 11p VAT = ...£0 75

TH1234: UMBRA: RAGE BOOSTER PACKS: As the Apocalypse draws near, the tribes of the Farou turn to unseen spirits in a last-chance effort to save the world. You must have a Rage starter deck to use these booster packs for White Wolf's Werewolf: The Apocalypse trading card game. Each pack 64p + 11p VAT = ...£0.75

TH1238: VAMPIRELLA MASTER VISIONS: A complete set of Topps' 36 monumental $6\frac{1}{2}$" x $10\frac{3}{16}$" art cards. The Harris Comics' vampire femme fatale that has endured as a bad girl icon (even before we all started calling them that) for many, many years shows us all exactly why this is, courtesy of interpretations by Boris Vallejo, Adam Hughes, Ray Lago, Biz, John Bolton, Julie Bell, Mike Kaluta and more. Pack price £13.61 + £2.38 VAT = ...£15.99

TH1246: WILDC.A.T.S. ANIMATED SERIES: 135 card series of trading cards from Jim Lee's successful TV series that has yet to be screened on terrestrial British TV. Get a first look at the 'C.A.T.S. on the small screen courtesy of these card packs which feature 9 cel cards, 9 foil etched cards, 5 oversized cards and rare 35mm frames. Each pack 42p + 7p VAT = ...£0.49

TH1249: WILDSTORM CHROMIUM SET II. 90 card series with new art by J Scott Campbell, Scott Dark, Brett Booth and others. Look for the 9 battle motion chase cards (ratio 1:8 packs) with art by Jim Lee. Pack £1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25

TH1252: WILDSTORM SWIMSUIT TRADING CARDS: The WildStorm ladies show they aren't just about brawling - they also look very pleasant in swimwear (who says chauvinism in comics is on the way out?). This is a 99-card series in 8 oversized card packs . Watch for the Miss WildStorm stickers (ratio 1:9 packs) 8 card pack £1.06 + 19p VAT =.....£1.25

TH1266: WITCHBLADE TRADING CARDS: From Top Cow Cards, Marc Silvestri's magical, murderous mean girl with the metal arm is presented in her own 90-card series of 8-card packs. Each pack contains a gold foil parallel card, and there are chances of finding 9 foil-etched puzzle portraits, 3 thermographic autographed cards and the ultra-rare (1:180

pack ratio) "Witchblade motion" card. Artistic interpretations from Marc himself , plus Mike Mignola, Mike Allred, Jae Lee, Walt Simonson, D-Tron, Art Adams and more: £1.49 + 26p = ...£1.75

TH1271: WYVERN STARTER DECK LIMITED EDITION: The card game of Dragons, Dragon-Slayers and Dragon treasure. Each beast is based on a real mythological creature (spot the deliberate contradiction), ready to enhance your battlefield position, accumulate a horde and dominate your Empire. Star deck 60 cards plus rules £2.13 + 37p VAT =.....£2.50

TH1504: X-FILES MASTERVISIONS: A complete set of Topps' 30 art card series with display easel. Pack price £13.61 + £2.38 = ...£15.99

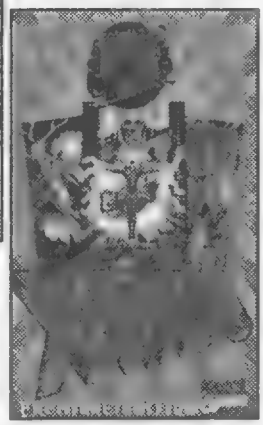
TH1506: X-FILES SHOWCASE VOLUME ONE: A 72 card premium quality series following 6 episodes of the sci-fi

TV show that has made 'conspiracy' a highly fashionable term. Stills from the pilot show 'Deep Throat', 'Squeeze', 'Ice', 'Fallen Angel' and 'The Erlenmeyer Flask' are included. 9 cards per pack. Each pack £1.15 + 20p VAT =.....£1.35

TH1602: X-MEN '95 FLEER ULTRA SET: All 150 cards from the 1995 Fleer X-Men series, in a clear plastic case. Featuring X-Men Greatest Battles, Spring Break shots, Hunters/Stalkers and team rasters. Complete 150-card set £16.98 + £2.97 VAT = ...£19.95

TH1603: X-MEN METALLIC IMPRESSIONS: 20 metal collector cards in a special presentation tin. Includes new art by Kelly Jones and Michael Golden. Limited production of 12,000 sets. Full set £16.98 + £2.97 VAT = £19 95

TH1604: X-MEN '94 FLEER ULTRA: Premier edition packs of the 1994 X-men Fleer series. Each pack contains 8 cards. Each pack 81p + 14p VAT =.....£0.95



TH1606: X-MEN SERIES II SET: Presented in a round factory-packed tin, SkyBox and Marvel present the 1993 X-Men series. This format was limited to 17,500 units. Full set in tin £16.98 + £2.97 VAT = ...£19.95

TH1721: YU-YU-HAKUSHO HERO COLLECTION: Magical battle cards in original Japanese text with state-of-the-art manga illustration. 10-card pack £1.06 + 19p VAT = ...£1.25

Although we have a few complete sets of Trading Cards listed in our Main Section of Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games, the following listing is all of complete sets of particular subjects.

Rather than extrapolate market values for each individual set, we decided to offer them our at a single set price per complete set. **All of these sets therefore are available per set at £8.50 + £1.49 VAT =..... £9.99.** At £9.99 per set, I know that some, if not many, of these complete sets are bargain priced. Please be aware though that supplies are extremely limited, therefore, it would be appreciated if you could put alternate choices:

Here's our listing of these extremely limited quantities of complete trading card sets:

TG109: Chris Achilleos II (1-90) Complete sets

TG111: Alien 3 (1-80) Complete sets

TG123: Amalgam (1-90) Complete Set

TG127: Avengelyne (1-99) Complete Set

TG135: Babylon 5 (1-60) Complete Set

TG141: Wayne Barlowe (1-90) Complete Sets

TG147: Ken Barr (1-90) Complete Sets

TG149: Batman & Robin (1-90) Complete Set

TG151: Batman Animated II (101-190) Complete Set

TG152: Batman Master Series (1-90) Complete Set

TG153: Batman Metal Forever (1-100) Complete Set

TG154: Batman Saga Complete Sets

TG177: John Berkley I (1-90) Complete Sets

TG178: John Berkley 2 (1-90) Complete set

TG182: Bettie Page In Black Lace (1-50) Complete Set

TG194: DC Bloodlines (1-81) Complete sets

TG199: Blueprints (1-90) Complete sets

TG203: Bone (1-90) I Complete set

TG204: Bone (1-90) 2 Complete Set

TG205: Bone: Dragon Slayer (1-90) Complete Sets

TG214: Boris Chrome (1-90) Complete Set

TG217: Boris & Julie (1-90) (1996) Complete Sets

TG223: Brom (1-90) Complete Sets

TG237: Caldwell (1-90) Complete Sets

TG241: Tom Canty (1-90) Complete Sets

TG245: Paul Chadwick (1-90) Complete Sets

TG249: Chiodo: Art Of Chiodo Complete Set

TG252: Comic Creators (1-110) Complete Set

TG253: Comics Future Stars 1993 (1-100)

TG257: Comic Images Supreme (1-90)

TG261: Conan III (1-90)

TG262: Conan Marvel Years (1-90)

TG268: Congo: The Movie (1-90)

TG270: Corben (1-90)

TG273: Creators Edition (1-90)

TG274: Creators Universe (1-100)

TG281: Cyber Force Summer (1-90)

TG282: Cyber Force (1-72)

TG293: Dark Dominion (1-150)

TG307: D.C Cosmic Teams (1-150)

TG308: D.C Firepower (1-80)

TG309: D.C Legends 95 (1-150)

TG310: D.C 1992

TG311: D.C 1993

TG312: D.C 1994 Master (1-90)

TG322: D.C Villains (1-90)

TG327: D.C. V Marvel (1-100)

TG351: Roger Dean (1-90)

TG357: Deathmate (1-110) 1993

TG359: Deathwatch 2000

TG362: Joe Devito (1-90)

TG372: Double Impact

TG374: Dragonheart (1-72)

TG376: Dr Who: Victoria Collection

TG377: Dr.Who Series #2

TG378: Dr.Who Series #3

TG391: Jeff Easley

TG407: Bob Eggleton

TG411: Evil Ernie I (1-100)

TG412: Evil Ernie II (1-100)

That brings us to the end of our eighth page. If you are reading this in Comics International then pages 9 through 16 continue a few pages further on. If you are reading this as a stand alone catalogue, then page 9 continues opposite.

Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TRADING CARDS COMPLETE SETS continued:

TG422: Femme Fatales Metallic Cards (1-90)
TG426: Firebrands (1-90)
TG428: Chris Foss (1-90)
TG431: Frazetta II (1-90)
TG442: Godzilla (1-100)
TG457: Heavy Metal (1-90)
TG461: Hescox
TG468: Hildebrandt Flights of Fantasy
TG469: Greg & Tim Hildebrandt (1-90)
TG470: Hildebrandt Best Of...
TG477: Hitch Hikers Guide To The Galaxy (1-90)
TG481: Hooters (1-100)
TG485: James Bond 007 (1-90)
TG487: Jason Goes To Hell (1-110)
TG491: Jeff Jones
TG492: Jeff Jones
TG499: Judge Dredd (1-82)
TG507: Jurassic Park Red
TG508: Jurassic Park Gold
TG521: Joe Jusko
TG522: Joe Jusko: Colosal Cards II (1-100) with Autographed Card
TG528: Kaluta 1
TG529: Kaluta 2
TG537: Tom Kidd
TG555: Kingdom Come
TG561: King Kong
TG563: Kirby
TG571: Lady Death II
TG575: Last Action Heroes
TG581: Linsner: Joseph Michael Linsner (1-90)
TG585: Lois and Clark
TG591: Maitz II
TG592: Mars Attack S/G Topps
TG595: Mars Attacks Official Reprint
TG597: Mars Attacks Topps Widevision (1-72)
TG622: Marvel Flair '94 (1-150)
TG623: Marvel Fleer Ultra (1-150)
TG624: Marvel Masterpieces 1992
TG625: Marvel Masterpieces 1993 #2
TG626: Marvel Masterpieces 1994 #3
TG627: Marvel Universe 1992
TG628: Marvel Universe 1993
TG629: Marvel Universe 1994
TG641: Masters Of Fantasy
TG644: David Mattingly
TG647: Maxx
TG651: Moebius
TG656: Monty Python & The Holy Grail (1-72)
TG658: More Than Battlefield Earth (1-90)
TG662: MTV Animated (1-146)
TG664: Betty Page
TG667: Betty Page In Black Lace
TG671: Parrish
TG673: Petty Girly II
TG675 Pin-Ups Uncovered
TG679: Pitt
TG684: Plasm
TG686: Mike Ploog
TG691: Power Ranger
TG694: Presspass
TG705: Prince Valiant
TG711: Punisher
TG715: Razor
TG720: Robot Carnival
TG722: Rocky Horror
TG725: Royo 2
TG726: Royo: Best of Royo Chrome
TG731: Rowena
TG734: Ruppel: ROBH
TG737: Sachs & Violens (1-90)
TG741: Sandman (1-90)
TG742: Sanjulian
TG746: Savage Dragon
TG751: Barclay Shaw
TG753: Shi
TG754: Snow White (1-90)
TG761: Space Art
TG763: Spawn 1995
TG766: Spider-Man 1994
TG767: Spider-Man (1992) 30th Aniversary
TG769 Spring Break
TG771: Star Trek Master Series 1
TG774: Star Trek Master Series 2
TG775: Star Trek 30 Years 1
TG776: Star Trek 30 Years 2
TG778: Star Trek Next Generation season Two
TG779: Star Trek Next Generation Season Three
TG780: Star Trek Next Generation Season Four
TG781: Star Trek Next Generation Season Five
TG793: Star Trek: Then Next Generation Inaugural
TG794: Star Trek Voyager Season One Series Two
TG905: Star Wars (Yellow) (1997)
TG906: Star Wars (Green)
TG911: Star Wars Galaxy Series One
TG912: Star Wars Galaxy Series Three
TG951: Steranko
TG955: William Stout II
TG957: Superman Doomsday
TG958: Superman Silver
TG959: Superman Platinum Regular
TG961: Art Suydam
TG964: Darrell Sweet
TG966: Tank Girl
TG967: Tek World
TG971: Thunderbirds
TG973: Transformer Series 1
TG975: Tribe
TG981: Ultraverse I
TG982: Ultraverse 2
TG986: Ultraverse Master
TG989: Unity
TG991: Valiant Era 1
TG993: Vampirella Gallery
TG995: Vertigo 1994
TG996: Charles Vess
TG997: Bill Ward 50 Fabulous Years of Torchy
TG1015: Wetworks
TG1017: Michael Whelan Adventures in Fantasy
TG1019: Tim White
TG1024: Wildcats Series 1
TG1027: Wildcats 1994
TG1028: Wildcats Adventures/Animated
TG1032: Wildstorm Archives (1-99)
TG1034: Wildstorm Archives II (100-198)
TG1035: Wildstorm Set II
TG1037: Wildstorm Swimsuit
TG1041: Steve Woron
TG1046: Wrightson (Series I)
TG1047: Wrightson II
TG1051: Wurtz
TG1075: X-Files Season Two
TG1102: X-Men Ultra 1995
TG1133: Youngblood 1992
TG1134: Youngblood Extreme

TRADING CARDS SINGLES SINGLES SINGLES

Thousands and Thousands of single cards have come our way recently. We've sorted them our into their different subjects and titles but rather than individually categorise them all, we have decided to offer them to you as random picks (minimum 5 cards) for just 3p per card.

How does it work?

If you decide that you'd like 5 Batman Cards from the 1995 Master Series, then quote our computer code TF143 and ask for 5 singles - we'll pick a random selection of 5 different singles to include in your order.

As is usual with card products the government want their slice of the action as well, so for every 5 cards you select, we must ask you to add 3p VAT. I know its a pain but that's the nature of the beast.

We have no restriction on multiples in this section so if you decide that you'd like 50 Batman Master Series, we'll pick 10 random picks of five cards, we'll try and make as many as possible different, but with 10 picks of 5 different cards there could be a few duplications, I thought it best to let you know up front.

Here's a grid chart of costs for when you order multiples of five cards:

5 cards x 3p =
15p + 3p VAT = ...18p
10 cards x 3p =
30p + 5p VAT = ...35p
50 cards x 3p =
£1.50 + 26p VAT = ... £1.76
100 cards x 3p =
£3.00 + 53p VAT = ... £3.53
250 cards x 3p =
£7.50 + £1.31 VAT = ...£8.81

The VAT differences are rounding errors that creep in when calculating fractions. Please feel free to order as many or as few cards (minimum 5 per subject) as you want across as many series as you desire.

Although, as I said, we do have many many thousands of cards, the supplies per subject are not inexhaustible, and at 3p per card, this is being offered as a customer service for you to experiment with a wide range of images that you might not necessarily get to see otherwise.

The racks are yours ~ enjoy.

TF105: CHRIS ACHILLEOS FANTASY ART SERIES I
TF106: CHRIS ACHILLEOS SERIES II
TF112: ALIENS/PREDATOR UNIVERSE 1994.
Dark Horse comics artwork.
TF121: AMALGAM 1996
The first DC/Marvel character merging experiment.
TF128: ANIMAL MYSTIC 1996
Greg Williams' fantasy comic series.
TF129: AVENGELYNE CHROMIUM SERIES
Maximum Press' maximum babe.
TF134: BARBWIRE 1996
Pamela Anderson's big-screen, BIG *(yes, that's quite enough, thankyou! - Ed.)* presentation of Dark Horse's bounty-hunting nightclub owner.
TF141: BATMAN 1994
Comic art from Robin, Year One, A Death in The Family, Nemesis and Dynamic Duo.
TF142: BATMAN FOREVER
Fleer '95 series of stills from the third Batman movie.
TF143: BATMAN MASTER SERIES: From SkyBox. very dark in tone, mainly painted artwork from the likes of Dermot Power, Scott Hampton, Carl Critchlow.
TF144: BATMAN MASTER SERIES ARTISTS PROOF.
The series' artists discuss each picture, also with reproduced autographs
TF145: BATMAN FOREVER METAL: High-grade enhancement of artists images of the third blockbusting movie.
TF146: BATMAN RETURNS
Series of stills from the sequel, released in 1992 by Topps.
TF183 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Series from Upper Deck, with stills from Disney's award-winning animated feature.
TF187: THE ALIEN WORLD OF WAYNE BARLOW: Fantasy art and sci-fi.
TF195: JOHN BERKLEY SCIENCE FICTION ART: Illustrated series from 1996. Sci-fi and space opera artwork.
TF206: JOHN BERKLEY SERIES II: Also from 1996.
TF211: BLUEPRINTS OF THE FUTURE: Sci-fi illustrations by Vincent Di Fate.
TF222: BONE SPARES 1994.
Jeff Smith's Bone, in colour *(does that sound like an innuendo?).*
TF223: BONE II CHROME CARDS: When Jeff Smith met Image Comics, Bone went to Hollywood (in a manner of speaking)
TF224: BONE: DRAGONSLAYER: From the fourth major bone story-arc.
TF276: BORIS VALLEJO SERIES ONE.
Fantasy artwork.
TF279: BORIS VALLEJO SERIES TWO: More from the master.
TF280: BORIS VALLEJO ALL-PRISM CARDS: Series III
TF282: BORIS VALLEJO SERIES FOUR
TF283: BEST OF BORIS VALLEJO: A separate series from 1994
TF302: BROM COLLECTIBLE CARDS: Fantasy/sword & sorcery illustration by Brom.
TF307: PAUL CHADWICK
Creator of concrete for Dark Horse, Paul has many other illustrating styles.
TF322: DAVID CHERRY:
Illustrations & original art.
TF328: CIVIL WAR
The art of Mort Kunstler applied to the American Civil war.
TF334: CLASSIC PULPS
Novels and comics/mags of the 40's and 50's.
TF351: COMIC CREATORS
Ever wonder what Wally Wood looks like, or Matt Wagner, or Ann Nocenti? Assorted photo images.
TF356: COMIC IMAGES SUPREME: Chromium cards-mature audiences.
TF362: COMICS FUTURE STARS: Produced in 1993. New characters, new artists. Who knows, in 10 years...?
TF364: COMICS GREATEST WORLD: Dark Horse comics heroes, from Division 13 to Ghost to Barbwire.
TF375: CONAN SERIES I CHROMIUM: Painted and pencilled artwork from comics an magazines, as well as new illustrations following comicdom's most famous warrior barbarian.
TF376: CONAN SERIES II CHROMIUM

TF377: CONAN SERIES III CHROMIUM: From 1995.
TF381: CONGO: THE MOVIE
Stills from the film
TF387: CONTINUITY COMICS
Characters from the now defunct superhero publisher.
TF404: CORBEN: Spotlighting the horror and fantasy art of Richard Corben

All these singles are available as random picks, quantity at your discretion, with a minimum of 5 cards (all different) per subject
Cost is just 3p per card
5 cards = 15p + 3p VAT = 18p
please order by computer code, title and quantity required .
Thank you.

TF410: CREATORS ALTERNATE UNIVERSE: A series of cards highlighting non-mainstream heroes and alternative comic characters like Hilly Rose, Wolff & Byrd, THB, Kabuki, Distant Soil and Starchild.
TF412: THE CREATORS UNIVERSE: Series which gives space to the newer "creator-owned" stories and characters, for example Art Adams' Monkeyman & O'Brien.
TF414: THE CROW: (1994).
Stills from the cult movie inspired by James O'Barr's comic strip.
TF421: CYBERFORCE ALL-CHROMIUM PREMIERE EDITION: From 1995 the Image heavy-htting team.
TF422: CYBERFORCE: A series from 1996:
TF450: DARK DOMINION:
Artwork from Defiants' 1993 title.
TF457: DC BLOODLINES:
The 1993 DC crossover event that introduced the New Blood heroes.
TF459: DC CHARACTERS 1995:
TF464: DC COSMIC CARDS SERIES I: The most popular space-cruisers of the DCU, from the recent Green Lantern to older characters like Saturn Girl.
TF467: DC FLASHBACK
(1993) Mainly Silve Age characters and situations, some early Modern Age.
TF471: DC FIREPOWER:
From 1996, the most powerful DC heroes in action.
TF473: DC POWER CHROME:
Legends '95: Chromium 'Legends of the Dark Knight' series.
TF476: DC: DC MASTER SERIES (1994)
Painted characters
TF504: ROGER DEAN:
Fantasy artwork
TF511: DEATH MATE (1993)
TF514: DEATHWATCH 2000
(1993) Horror fantasy.
TF522: DEFECTIVE COMICS CARDS: Parody cartooning covers.
TF528: DEMOLITON MAN: The big-budget 1993 sci-fi movie with Sly Stallone and Wesley Snips.
TF534: DOUBLE IMPACT: The double-trouble female duo from High Impact Studios popular comic crash into trading cards.
TF539: DOCTOR WHO SERIES ONE (1994) Classic Who stills. Information on the reverse side.
TF540: DOCTOR WHO SERIES TWO (1995)
More classic TV Who.
TF541: DOCTOR WHO SERIES THREE (1996) More - ah, heck, it's all classic.
TF550: DRACULA (FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA)
The movie stills.
TF560: DRAGON BALL:
Original Japanese manga (1995).

Trading Cards and Collectible Card Games

TRADING CARDS SINGLES CONTINUED:

TF581: JEFF EASLY: Fantasy art.
TF587: BOB EGGLETON: Fantasy artist's work.
TF594: LARRY ELMORE: Fantasy art.
TF602: ELVGREN: Horror, sexy and fantastical art.
TF605: EVIL ERNIE: The comics undead bad boy, linked to dear Lady Death (who also appears) in this 1993 series.
TF606: EVIL ERNIE GLOW IN THE DARK Chromium Cards (1995) single cards:
TF611: FANGORIA (1992) Single cards
TF621: FEMME FATALES METALLIC (1996) Chromium cards single cards
TF624: FIREBRANDS (Ron Miller) Single cards.
TF630: FLIGHTS OF FANTASY (1994) single cards
TF640: FRAZETTA 1 (1991) single cards
TF641: FRAZETTA II Spares (1993) single cards
TF642: FRAZETTA: THE BEST OF... All-chromium Collector Cards (1996) single cards
TF656: GEN 13: (1995) Chromium single cards
TF672: GERRY ANDERSON (1993) single cards
TF679: GHOST RIDER I (1992) single cards
TF680: GHOST RIDER II (1992) single cards
TF686: G.I. JOE: 30TH SALUTE (1994) single cards
TF689: GROO: (1995) Single cards
TF694: HEAVY METAL: COVERS (1991) Single cards
TF695: HEAVY METAL: THE MOVIE AND MORE: (1996) single cards
TF707: HELLRAISER (1992) single cards
TF711: HESCOX (1993) single cards
TF715: GREG HILDEBRANDT I 1992 single cards
TF716: GREG HILDEBRANDT II (1993) single cards
TF720: HILDEBRANDT: Brothers Hildebrandt (1994) single cards
TF721: HILDEBRANDT: Tim Hildebrandt Flights of Fantasy (1994) single cards
TF725: HILDEBRANDT: Greg &. Tim Hildebrandt
TF732: HITCHHIKERS (1994) single cards
TF735: HULK (1991) single cards
TF741: HUSTLER (1992) single cards
TF745: IMAGE UNIVERSE (1992) Chromium single cards
TF747: INDEPENDENCE DAY WIDEVISION (1996) single cards
TF752: JAMES BOND (I) (1993) Gold Eclipse, single cards
TF753: JAMES BOND II (1993) Silver Eclipse, single cards
TF755: JAMES BOND 007 (Blue) 1995 single cards
TF756: JAMES BOND 007 (Red) 1995 single cards
TF760: JAMES BOND 007: Goldeneye (1995) single cards
TF771: JASON GOES TO HELL Spares (1993)
TF783: JEFF JONES (1993) single cards
TF787: JUDGE DREDD (1995) single cards
TF791: JURASSIC PARK (1992) single cards
TF792: JURASSIC PARK red single cards
TF793: JURASSIC PARK (1993) single cards
TF794: JURASSIC PARK Gold spare: (1993) single cards
TF807: JOE JUSKO'S EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS COLLECTION (1994) single cards

All these singles are available as random picks, quantity at your discretion, with a minimum of 5 cards (all different) per subject
Cost is just 3p per card
5 cards = 15p + 3p VAT = 18p
please order by computer code, title and quantity required .
Thank you.

TF814: MIKE KALUTA (1994) single cards
TF821: KEN KELLY (I) (1992) single cards
TF822: KEN KELLY II (1994) single cards
TF829: TOM KIDD (1995) single cards
TF834: KINGDOM COME XTRA (1996) single cards
TF837: KING KONG SPARES (1993) single cards
TF841: JACK KIRBY: The Unpublished Archives (1994) single cards
TF842: JACK KIRBY TRIBUTE (1994) single cards
TF851: LADY DEATH (I) Chromium (1994)
TF852: LADY DEATH II Chromium (1995) single cards
TF860: LAST ACTION HEROES (1993) single cards
TF864: LEGACY (1993) single cards
TF867: JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER: Dawn & Beyond (1995) single cards
TF872: DON MAITZ (1994) single cards
TF877: MARS ATTACKS (1994) single cards
TF881: MARVEL MASTERPIECES (1992) single cards
TF882: MARVEL MASTERPIECES (1993) single cards
TF882: MARVEL MASTERPIECES (1993) single cards
TF883: MARVEL MASTERPIECES (1994) single cards
TF884: MARVEL MASTERPIECES (1995) single cards
TF885: MARVEL OVERPOWER Card Game
TF886: MISSION FATAL ATTRACTIONS (1995) single cards
TF887: MARVEL 1st COVERS SPARES SERIES II (1991)
TF888: MARVEL '91 Spares single cards
TF889: MARVEL 92 singles
TF894: MARVEL FLAIR '94 single cards
TF896: MARVEL OVERPOWER CARDGAME (1995) single cards
TF901: MARVEL VERSUS DC (1995) single cards
TF911: MASTERS OF JAPANIMATION (1996) single cards
TF918: MAXX (1996) single cards
TF922: MOEBIUS (1993) single cards
TF927: MONROE PRIVATE COLLECTION (1993) (Gold) single cards
TF928: MONROE (1993) single cards
TF931: MORE THAN BATTLEFIELD EARTH single cards
TF942: ROWENA MORRILL (1993)
TF961: MORTAL KOMBAT I (1994) single cards
TF962 MORTAL KOMBATT II (1994) single cards
TF984: MTV ANIMATION: (1995) single cards
TF1011: OLIVIA 2 (1993) single cards
TF1012: OLIVIA 3 (1994) single cards
TF1013: OLIVIA STUDIES IN SENSUALITY CHROME (1995) single cards
TF1014: OLIVIA THE BEST OF OLIVIA CHROME (1994) single cards
TF1015: OLIVIA CHROME (1996) single cards
TF1022: OVERKILL (1993) single cards
TF1027: KEITH PARKINSON (1994) single cards
TF1034: PARRISH: MAXFIELD PARRISH: (1994) single cards
TF1039: PETTY GIRLS: (1994) single cards
TF1046: PHANTOM (1996) single cards
TF1051: PITT (1995) single cards
TF1059: PLANET OF THE APES single cards
TF1062: PLASM single cards
TF1067: MIKE PLOOG: Spares (1994) single cards
TF1073: POCAHONTAS single cards
TF1079: POWER CARDS (1995) single cards
TF1084: POWER RANGER (1995) single cards
TF1088: PRINCE VALIANT (1995) single cards
TF1093: PUNISHER SPARES (1992) single cards
TF1106: RAZOR CHROMIUM (1995) single cards
TF1109: ROBOT CARNIVAL: Master of Japanese Animation (1994) single cards
TF1115: ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW: 20 years of the.. (1995) single cards
TF1122: ROWENA MORRILL (19934) single cards
TF1123: ROWENA: Best of Rowens Chromium (1996) single cards
TF1134: ROYO (I) (1993) single cards
TF1135: ROYO (2) (1994) single cards
TF1136: ROYO: The Best of Royo Chromium (1995) single cards
TF1141: ROBH RUPPET single cards
TF1145: SACHS & VIOLENS SPARE (1993) single cards
TF1152: SANDMAN (1994) single cards
TF1157: SANJULIAN: Spares (1994) single cards
TF1161: SAVAGE DRAGON single cards
TF1168: SEAQUEST DSV (1993) single cards
TF1172: SHADOW SILVER SPARES (1994) single cards
TF1175: SHADOW FIST (1995) single cards
TF1178: SHADOWHAWK (Image of) single cards
TF1183: SHI CHROMIUM (1995) single cards
TF1187: HAJIME SORAYAMA II Chromium Creatures (1994) single cards
TF1196: SPAWN (1995) single cards
TF1197: SPAWN: Chromium Cards (1996) single cards
TF1198: SPAWN POWER CARDS (1995) single cards
TF1241: SPIDER-MAN MARVEL CARDS (1994) single cards
TF1242: SPIDERMAN ULTRA (1995) single cards
TF1252: STARGATE (1994) single cards
TF1257: STARLOG (1993) single cards
TF1307: STAR TREK The Next Generation Season Three (1995) single cards
TF1308: STAR TREK The Next Generation Season Four (1996) single cards
TF1309: STAR TREK The Next Generation Season Five (1996) single cards
TF1311: STAR TREK VOYAGER Season One Series Two (1995) single cards
TF1321: STAR TREK: 25th Anniversary (1991) single cards
TF1324: STAR TREK: Master Series (I) (1993) single cards
TF1325: STAR TREK: Master Series (2) (1994) single cards
TF1328: STAR TREK: Deep Space Nine (1993) single cards
TF1334: STAR TREK GENERATIONS (1994) single cards
TF1341: STAR TREK: The Next Generation (1992) single cards
TF1344: STAR TREK: The Next Generation (1994) Season 1 single cards
TF1345: STAR TREK: The Next Generation (1995) Season 2 single cards
TF1351: STAR TREK C.C.G. (Card Game) (1995) single cards
TF1507: STAR WARS: C.C.G. single cards
TF1511: STAR WARS: GALAXY (1995) single cards
TF1521: STAR WARS WIDEVISION (1995) single cards
TF1624: STERANKO: Jim Steranko (1995) single cards
TF1627: WILLIAM STOUT (I) Spares (1993) single cards
TF1628: WILLIAM STOUT (2) Spares (1994) single cards
TF1629: WILLIAM STOUT: Saurians & Sorcerers (1996) single cards
TF1646: STRANGERS IN PARADISE (1996) single cards
TF1675: SUPERMAN: 1978 Single cards
TF1676: SUPERMAN: DOOMSDAY: (1992) Single Cards
TF1677: SUPERMAN: HOLO SERIES: (1996) Single Cards
TF1678: SUPERMAN: RETURNS : (1993) Single Cards
TF1704: SWEET: DARRELL K SWEET: (1994) Single Cards
TF1751: TALES FROM THE CRYPT: (1993) Single Cards
TR1756: TANK GIRL: (1995) Single Cards
TF1762: TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: (1990) Single Cards
TF1763: TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES STICKERS: (1990) Single Stickers
TF1774: TEK WORLD: SPARES: (1993) Single Cards
TF1778: TERMINATOR 2: (1991) Single Cards
TF1784: THUNDERBIRDS SPARES: (1992) Single Cards
TF1788: TRUE CRIME SERIES ONE TO FIVE: (1992)
TF1841: ULTRAVERSE I: (1993) Single Cards
TF1842: ULTRAVERSE II: (1994) Single Cards
TF1843: ULTRAVERSE MASTER SERIES: (1994) Single Cards
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TF1871: VALIANT ERA (1): SPARES: (1993) Single Cards
TF1872: VALIANT ERA (1994) TWO: Single Cards
TF1883: VAMPIRELLA: (1994) Single Cards
TF1884: VAMPIRELLA: (1995) Single Cards
TF1885: VAMPIRELLA GALLERY: 1995 Single Cards
TF1892: VAMPIRES AND VIXENS: (1993) Single Cards
TF1904: VARGAS I: 1992 Single Cards
TF1906: VARGAS II: (1993) Single Cards
TF1921: CHARLES VESS: 1995 Single Cards
TF1927: WARHOLA: JAMES WARHOLA: (1995) Single Cards
TF1931: WARREN: JIM WARREN'S SURREALISM BEYOND BIZARRE: (1993) Single Cards
TF1935: WATERWORLD FLEER ULTRA: (1995) Single Cards
TF1942: WETWORKS 1995 (CHROMIUM): Single Cards
TF1948: WHELAN: MICHAEL WHELAN SPARES: (1993) Single Cards
TF1949: MICHAEL WHENLAN II: OTHER WORLDS: (1995) Single Cards
TF1957: TIM WHITE: (1994) Single Cards
TF1961: WILDCAT SPARES: (1993) Single Cards
TF1962: WILDCATS CHROMIUM: (1994) Single Cards
TF1967: WILDCATS ANIMATED: (1995) Single Cards
TF1971: WILDSTORM ARCHIVES (I) (CHROMIUM): (1995) Single Cards
TF1972: WILDSTORM ARCHIVES II (1996) (CHROMIUM) Single Cards
TF1974: WILDSTORM: CHROME: (1994) Single Cards

All these singles are available as random picks, quantity at your discretion, with a minimum of 5 cards (all different) per subject
Cost is just 3p per card
5 cards = 15p + 3p VAT = 18p
please order by computer code, title and quantity required .
Thank you.

TF1977: WILDSTORM GALLERY: (1995) Single Cards
TF1979: WILDSTORM SET II Single Cards
TF2007: WOLVERINE FROM THEN 'TIL NOW II: (1992) Single Cards
TF2021: WOMEN OF THE WORLD: (1994) Single Cards
TF2025: WORLD OF U.S. MANGA CORPS (1994) Single Cards
TF2028: STEVE WORON'S FEMALE FANTASY T.C. (1993) Single Cards
TF2032: WRESTLE MANIA V: (1990) Single Cards
TF2036: BERNIE WRIGHTSON SERIES TWO: (1994) More Macabre Single Cards
TF2041: X-FILES: (1996) Single Cards
TF2053: X-FORCE SPARES (1991) Single Cards
TF2062: X-MEN SPARES (1991) Single Cards
TF2065: X-MEN SERIES I (1992) Single Cards
TF2071: X-MEN SERIES 2 (1993) Single Cards
TF2074: X-MEN ULTRA FLEER '94: Single Cards
TF2076: X-MEN FLEER ULTRA (1995) Single Cards Limited Edn
TF2083: YOUNGBLOOD (1992) Single Cards
TF2084: YOUNGBLOOD 1995 Single Cards
TF3001: ROCKCARDS (1991) Single Cards
TF3002: ROCKCARDS (BROCKUM): (1991) Single Cards.

When ordering Mature Comics or Cards, an Age Statement is required with your order.

TRADING CARDS ALBUMS

Finally, *I think*, in this Trading Card Section, we offer our limited range of Albums in which to store your trading cards. Again, as with complete sets, supplies are extremely limited.

All Albums at a single price per album of £7.62 + £1.33 VAT = ...£8.95

TD18: Chris Achilleos Trading Card Album
TD51: Gen 13 Trading Card Album
TD75: Marvel Annual Flair '95 Trading Card Album
TD85: Marvel Metal 1995 Trading Card Album
TD24: Battlestar Galactica Collectors Album
TD25: Comic Images Trading Card Album
TD26: Conan III Trading Card Album
TD28: Cyberforce Summer Trading Card Album
TD30: Dark Dominion Trading Card Album
TD32: Dr Who Trading Card Album
TD307: Star Trek Deep Space Nine Trading Card Album
TD314: Star Trek The Next Generation Season One Trading Card Album
TD315: Star Trek The Next Generation Season Three Trading Card Album
TD330: Star Wars Galaxy Trading Card Album
TD425: Superman The Man of Steel - Platinum Series Trading Card Album
TD500: Wildstorm Trading Card Album

MAGAZINES ABOUT COMICS

OVER the last decade there have been many magazines published about comics. Some regularly, some intermittently, some for one or two issues, others for many years.

In this section we've tended to concentrate on the few more popular titles like Hero, Overstreet - Fan and of course Wizard.

We start the section with Hero illustrated. A full colour, gossipy $3.95 news magazine/price guide. Hero as a magazine lasted over two years before ceasing paper publication and transferring to the Net, after which it disappeared.

Most (but not all) back issues are polybagged with freebies.

A11: HERO ILLUSTRATED (1993) ($3.95)
1 (McFarlane Talks!) £1.50
2 (Jim Lee Poster) £1.25
3 (Spotlight on Silvestri), 4 (Neil Gaiman speaks out), 5 (Jim Lee speaks out, spotlight on Dave Sim), 6 (DC Zero Hour), 8 (Aliens four movie), 9 (Grant Morrison), 10 (Batman /Spawn, Jack Kirby Memorial, John Romita) 12,13 all are .....£0.75 each

Let's make Hero issue 13 of part of our freebie programme. Provided that you order at least four magazines from the 'Magazines About Comics" section, you can have a copy of Hero 13 for no extra fee. Please add A11 No 13 to your order, whether written or verbal.

A11A: HERO SPECIAL EDITION (1993) Number One: Batman from Dark Knight to Knightfall ($3.95) £0.75

A11B: HERO NUMBER ELEVEN (1994) #11 polybagged with Bongo Comics ashcan of Bartman /Radioactive Man no 1 ($3.95) £0.95

A11C: HERO SPECIAL EDITION: (1993) The Year in Review ($4.95) £0.75

A11D: HERO NUMBER ELEVEN (1994) With, this time, a Malibu 'Dreadstar" 1/2 comic ($3.95) £0.95

A11E: HERO SPECIAL EDITION: ANTI-HERO (1994) Comic book villains plus Stephen King on what makes a bad guy good ($4.95) £1.00

A11F: HERO 1994 YEARBOOK (1995) ($3.95) £0.95

A11G: HERO: THE 100 MOST IMPORTANT COMICS OF ALL TIME (1994) ($4.95) £1.00

A11H: HERO: COMIC BOOK WHO'S WHO (1994) Complete biogs ($3.95) £1.00

A11S: HERO 1994: SCI-FI ANNUAL (1994) Star Wars, Star Trek ($3.95) £0.95

A11T: HERO: IMAGE ILLUSTRATED (1994) Inside the relatively new publishing giant ($3.95) £0.95

A11X: INQUEST (1995) Magazine developed and produced by Wizard for the gaming enthusiast. All were polybagged with trading cards for card games, included news, features, price guides and explored ways to find an edge in many games of strategy and /or apparent chance ($3.99)
No 2 (Our only non-polybagged issue) £1.25
7 (Overpower player's guide, Magic expansion) £1.50
8,9,12,13,14,17,18,20, 21(12-card Star Trek Warp pack, '97 CCG Review), 22, 23 (X-Files Cards, Magic variant column), 24 (Magic cards, Battletech), 25 (X-Files Card + poster), 26 (Middle-Earth check list), 27, 28 (Aliens vs Predator), 29, 30, 31 (Free board game 'I.Q.') all at .....£1.95 each

A12: OVERSTREET Comic Book Monthly. Around 160 pages of market reports, news, articles and comic values. The Overstreet Monthly ran for a couple of years before being relaunched as the all colour Overstreet's Fan.
Issues available:
3 (Jurassic Park) £0.50
5.....£0 75
6.....£0.50
7 (Radio-active Man / Bartman - Simpsons) £0.60
10 (Jae Lee, original Hellshock) £0 95
11 (Jeff Smith's Bone) £1.25
12 (Jack Kirby Memorial)....£1.45
13 (Mike Allred's Madman) £0.75
14 (Ultraverse, Peter David) £0.50
21 (Universe according to Gene Roddenberry)... £0 95

A150: OVERSTREET'S FAN (1995) Colour fan periodical and price guide that was the nearest popular rival to Wizard.
($3.95 - $4.50) 1-4.....£1.95
5 (Dark Horse on Star Wars, Terry Moore) £1.25
6 (Mike Deodata, Tony Harris explains Starman) £1.25
7 (Dave Sim, Indies, Harris Comics) £1.25
8,9,10.....£1.25
11 (Greg Capullo discusses Spawn, David Mack) £1.25
12,13,14.....£1.05
15 (Homage Comics, Space Ghost, Batman) £1.05
16 (Rob Liefeld versus the industry, Vertigo's House of Secrets) £1.35
17 (JLA, Poizon, plus Spawn).....£1.20
18 (Rob Liefeld 'leaves' Image, Spawn) £1.35
19 (Frank Miller is angry, Shi, Excalibur).....£1.25
20 (1996 Review, Shi / Daredevil, Mars Attacks!) £1.25
21 (Heroes Reborn, Darkchylde, DC Universe).....£1.25
22 (Lois & Clark, new Spider-man).....£1.50
23 (Mage Vol 2, Grant Morrison, ToyFair '97) £1.50
24 (Amalgam Universe, Mad Magazine) £1.50

A99: WIZARD (1991). Possibly the American guide to popular comics, Wizard is the success story of the comics decade. A packed, plentiful and well-packaged full-colour monthly, beginning at $2.50 and rising to $4.95, all about product and creators. What's hot, what's not, and what's worth what to boot. Most polybagged issues contain freebies such as ash-can editions or trading cards. Issues available:
1 (McFarlane Spider-man cover) £4.50
2 (Chris Claremont interview) £2.95
3 (Erik Larsen Wolverine cover, Biz interview) £3.95
6 (Sam Kieth interview plus Hulk cover) £2.95
8 (Whilce Portacio, 11 (Spawn), 12 (WildC.A.T.S) £2.95
13 (Ghost Rider poster), 14 (Neal Adams) £1.75
15,16 .....£0.95
17 (Valiant Universe special, with David Lapham cover) £0.75
18-21,22,23 (Dark Horse plus Vertigo articles) £1.25
24 (Knightfall) 25,26,27,28, 29,30 (Matt Wagner, Beavis & Butthead) £1.25
31-34 .....£1.50
35 (Special price).....£0.50
36-38, 39 (Greg Capullo on Spawn) £1.50
40-75 .....£1.95

A99A: WIZARD: THE DARK BOOK (1994) A comprehensive 128 page look at comic book villains ($3.95) £1.25

A99B: WIZARD: BEYOND ZERO HOURS (1994) A 96-page look at DC Comics post Zero Hour ($3.95) £0.95

A99C: WIZARD: BAD GIRL SPECIAL (1995) The phenomenon of the Bad Girl as explained by creators, publishers and critics ($3.99) £2.50

A99D: WIZARD: THE MOST COLLECTIBLE COMICS (1993) From the Golden Age to the 1990's ($3.95) £1.05

A99E: WIZARD: BAD GIRLS SPECIAL (1995) Same as A99C: but with Pamela Anderson as Barb Wire on the cover ($3.99) £2.50

A99F: WIZARD PRESENTS SPAWN (1996) Everything you ever wanted to know about but were afraid to ask ($3.99) ..£1.50

A99G: WIZARD PRESENTS WOLVERINE (1996). Marvel's most popular mutant ($3.99) £1.25

A99H: WIZARD PRESENTS JIM LEE (1996) President of Homage Comics and one of the Marvel-breakaway founders of Image ($3.99) £1.50

A99J: WIZARD: SUPERMAN TRIBUTE..... (1992) Still all-powerful after all these years ($4.95) £1.25

A99K: WIZARD: VALIANT ERA SPECIAL: (1994) ($3.95) ..£0.75

A99L: WIZARD: X-MEN TURN THIRTY (1993) 30 years of mutants at Marvel ($4.95) ..£1.50

A99M: WIZARD: POSTERMANIA 1996) Over 45 posters by fave artists, never-before-seen art. Bad girls, superheroes, manga, painted art, alternative ($3.99).....£3.50

A99N: WIZARD: SCI-FI INVASION (1996) Star Wars prequel plots, ST milestones, X-Files uncovered, Boba Fett vs Predator (!), answers to why DS9 & Voyager exist ($3.99) £2.50

A99P: WIZARD: TOYFARE ($3.99) 1 Spring Edition.....£1.50
2 Winter Edition £1.50

A99R: WIZARD: SCI-FI INVASION (1997) All that's new on TV and the big screen for Winter '97 and into 1998 ($3.99) £2.50

A99S: WIZARD'S TOYFARE (1997) Monthly Magazine ($3.99) 1,3,4.....£1.95

A99Y: WIZARD; SCI-FI INVASION (1997) Up-to-date Autumn '97 Star Wars facts plus Alien:Resurrection & Godzilla ($3.99) £2 50

A99T: WIZARD: JLA SPECIAL (1997) \The history of Dc's greatest superteam from inception to current incarnation ($3.99) £2.50

A101: WIZARD'S COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE ANNUAL Massive 288 page books ($12.95) 1995 .....£2.95
1996.....£2.95

A152: COMICS PRO (1995) Fan magazine that sought to present comics and the industry honestly and without spin-doctoring ($3.75)
1 Drawing comics with Steve Rude £1.25
2 Comics gallerys, Shannon Wheeler, Grendel creator Matt Wagner).....£1.25

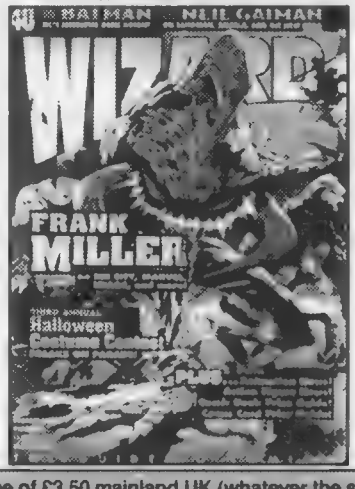
A153: CONJURE MAGAZINE (1995) Fantasy in comics, card games, RPG's, fiction ($3.95)
2.....£1.50
3.....£1.25
6.....£1.05

A154: FLUX (1995) Harris Publications action & babes computer games and comics zine ($4.50) 1,2 .....£0.95

A51: MANGA VIZION (Viz Communications, 1995) Manga Magazine anthology: North America's first in fact (and only one at the time). New and reprinted material by Japanese top creators like Rumiko Takahashi & Ryoichi Ikegami ($4.95)
Volume 1: No 1 (all new stories begin).....£2.50
2-5 .....£1.95
6 (Samurai Crusader, AA Prime) £0 95
7.....£1 95
8 (Time Warp Trouble & Ogre Slayer) £0 95
9,10 .....£1 75
Volume 2: No 1 (continues Wasted Minds from Vol 1) ..£1.75
2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 .....£1.25
Volume 3: No 2,3,5, 7,9,10.....£1.50

A268: STAR WARS GALAXY MAGAZINE (Topps) (1993) These are the news-stand editions ($3.95)
3,4 .....£1.35
6 (Winter 1995) £1 25
7 (Spring 1996) £1.50
8 (Summer 1996) Exploring the Dark Side.....£1.25
9 (Fall 1996) £1.50
12 (Summer 1997).....£1.95

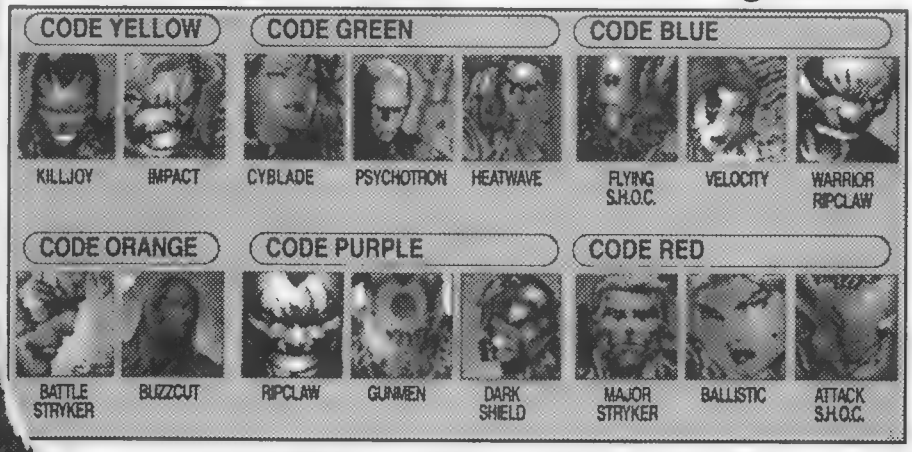
A269: STAR WARS GALAXY MAGAZINE (Topps) The same publication, but this deluxe format was sealed in plastic and included freebies like cards, posters, badges, pins and the like ($3.95 - $4.95) We kick off with issue 3 from Spring 1995:
3 (Jae Lee portfolio, widevision card) £2.50
4 (15th Anniversary, plus cards).....£2.50
5 (Prequel news, Hildebrandt Bros).....£2.50
6,7 (Shadows of The Empire special) £2.50
8 (Hildebrandt's cards inside) £2.50
9,10 (Jabba card, Trilogy Special Edition) £2.50
12 (Prequel update, Princess Leia special) £2.50



ACTION FIGURES

Hi folks, some more action figures have come our way.
3", 5", 6", they are all in unopened blister packs and now sitting on the shelves for you.
The stockholding is limited and therefore to be fair to everyone we are not accepting orders for multiple copies of the same figures. Singles only ladies and gentlemen.
They are only available for the duration of this catalogue, so check out your requirements now.

CYBERFORCE 7cm Action Figures



CYBERFORCE 7cm ACTION FIGURES

Six complete sets available.

TS387: CODE RED:
Major Stryker, Ballistic & Attack S.H.O.C. £2.13 + 37p VAT = ...£2.50

TS388: CODE BLUE:
Flying S.H.O.C., Velocity, Warrior Ripclaw
£2.13 + 37p VAT = ...£2.50

TDS389: CODE GREEN:
Cyblade, Psychotron, Heatwave:
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TS390: CODE YELLOW:
Killjoy & Impact
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TS391: CODE ORANGE:
Battle Stryker, & Buzzcut
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TS392: CODE PURPLE:
Ripclaw, Gunmen, Dark Shield
£2.13 + 37p VAT = ...£2.50

Welcome to DOOM TROOPER

THE COLLECTIBLE TRADING CARD GAME

You are about to enter a distant future in which the hideous masses of the DARK LEGION threaten to lay waste to the glory of humankind! You have the power to control the forces of destiny. Will the MEGACORPORATIONS prevail against all odds? Will the holy BROTHERHOOD be able to exorcise the evil taint of the GREAT DARKNESS?

Or will the hordes of the DARK APOSTLES dominate the worlds of humanity? These questions and more are answered as you play the game. The choice is yours!

❋ Doomtrooper is a card game for two or more players. In Doomtrooper, no gameboards are needed, no dice, no playing pieces - all you need is your own deck of cards and some coins, beads, stones or some scrap paper for counting the score. Luck inevitably plays a part, but it will rarely defeat the player with the better deck and tactics.

❋ Each player has his own deck of cards, which can consist of any number of cards, but has at least sixty. In a STARTER SET, you'll find everything you need to begin play: 60 cards, especially selected to give you a wide and useful collection, plus an illustrated rules booklet with both Beginner's and Standard rules.

❋ The Unlimited edition of Doomtrooper consists of 331 cards which have different 'commonalities'. It will be very difficult to collect all the 'rare' cards, while fairly simple to collect all the 'common'. And usually, the more rare the card is, the more powerful it is in the game!

❋ The player with the 'better deck' increases his chances to win, so how do you get a 'better deck'? Well, first, you can always TRADE cards with your friends, for example one card you need for two cards you don't need. Also, you can always buy more cards; either by purchasing more Starter Deck, or by buying BOOSTER PACK each containing 15 randomly assorted cards (of slightly less commonality than the Standard Deck assortment).

❋ Once you have collected more of the available cards you will notice that certain cards are meant to GO TOGETHER to make your playing deck even more powerful. Some cards work best if your opponent has the right cards in play One of the greatest joys of Doomtrooper is that you can COMPOSE (adapt) your deck to be as effective as possible - but don't forget, your opponents will do exactly the same, and they're out to get you!

DOOM TROOPER, established in 1994, and still going strong is one of the best trading card games available today. In conjunction with creators Target Games of Sweden, and their official agents in the UK, Gamecraft , The Comics Warehouse is offering a Special Promotion to introduce its customers to DOOM TROOPER.

Therefore for the duration of the Catalogue we have the DOOM TROOPER game available at a Special Special rate:

TH721: DOOM TROOPER STARTER DECK OF 60 CARDS
***JUST*... £1.66 + 29p VAT = £1.95**

YES, just £1.95 for a Starter Deck ... and Boosters??? how much ??

TH721A: DOOM TROOPER BOOSTER PACKS OF 15 CARDS
***JUST*... 42p + 7p VAT = £0.49**

Enjoy yourself. Try a new game today!

TOTAL CHAOS 15cm ACTION FIGURES from McFarlane Toys

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TS397: HOOF:
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TS398: THORAX:
£8.47 + £1.48 VAT = £9.95
TS399 THRESHER:
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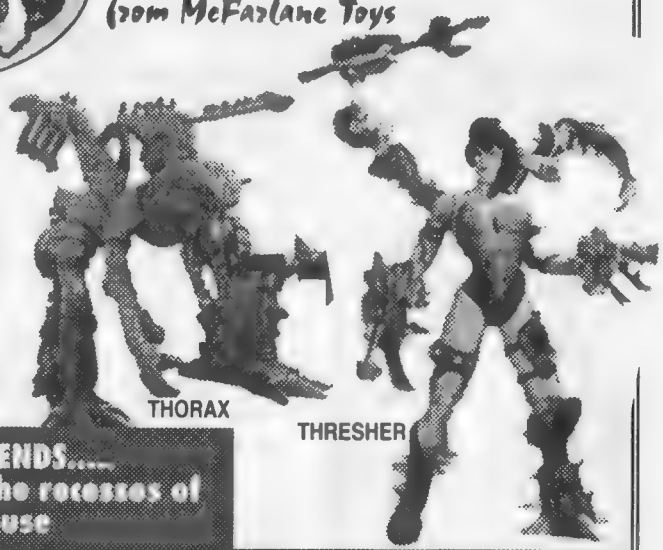

MORE FROM BIN ENDS..... Just found in the recesses of The Warehouse

From the Ren & Stimpy cartoons

TS501: BUMBERIFFIC STIMPY ACTION FIGURE
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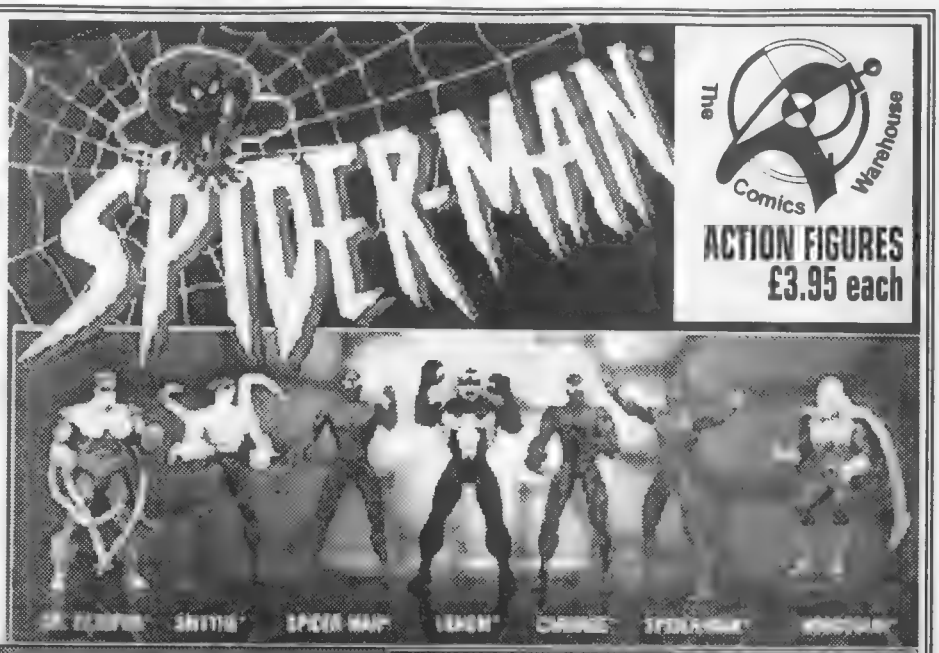
TS210: SHATTERSTAR 10" Action Figure
£5.95 + £1.04 VAT = ...£6.99

TS211: THE LIZARD 10" Action Figure
£5.95 + £1.04 VAT = ...£6.99

TS212: DR OCTOPUS 10" Action Figure
£5.95 + £1.04 VAT = ...£6.99

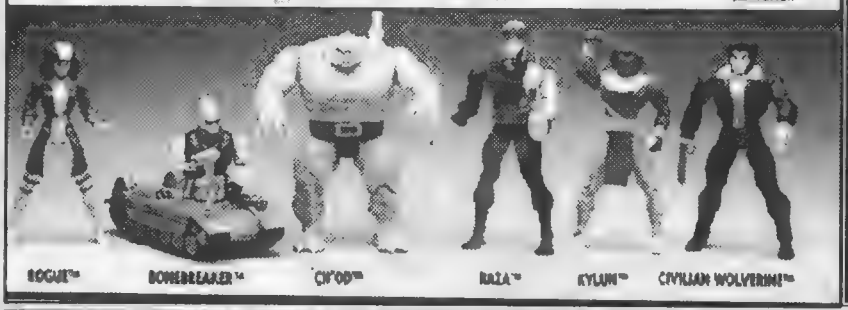
All prices given are per Copy or per Set. Flat rate shipping fee mainland U.K. whatever the size of order.

All these single SPIDERMAN FIGURES are £3.36 plus 59p VAT = ...£3.95 each
TS612: CARNAGE
TS614: HOBGOBLIN
TS615: SPIDERMAN WEBRACER
TS616: SPIDERMAN WEBSHOOTER
TS617: SMYTHE
TS619: VENOM
TS624: WEB PARACHUTE SPIDERMAN
TS626: SPREADING WING VULTURE
TS627: SPEAR THROWING KRAVEN
TS629: KING PIN WITH Grab & Smash
*We also have some **TWO PACKS** of figures*
TS610: CARNAGE figure and SPIDERMAN figure
Pack price £5.95 + £1.04 VAT = ...£6.99
TS611: CARNAGE figure and VENOM figure
Pack price £5.95 + £1.04 VAT = ...£6.99
*and finally we have a **TRIPLE** figure box:*
TS609: THE MAXIMUM CARNAGE PACK, each box contains one SPIDERMAN, one CARNAGE and one VENOM. Three figures at a single pack price of £7.62 + £1.33 VAT = ...£8.95



The Comics Warehouse

ACTION FIGURES £3.95 each



X-MEN ACTION FIGURES

£2.51 + 44p VAT = £2.95 each

TS651:	X-TREME	TS4307:	NIMROD
TS652:	COMMCAST	TS4311:	ARCHANGEL II
TS653:	CABLE	TS4315:	ICEMAN II
TS654:	SLAYBACK	TS4316:	SPIRAL
TS655:	WARPATH	TS4324:	WOLVERINE FANG
TS657:	BLACK TOM	TS4331:	GAMBIT
TS659:	RAZA	TS4334:	WOLVERINE
TS660:	CH'OD	TS4340:	BLOODHAWK
TS661:	BONEBREAKER	TS4341:	BRIMSTONE LOVE
TS662:	KY'LUN	TS4342:	MEANSTREAK
TS4302:	CABLE CYBORG	TS4343:	METALHEAD
TS4306:	GENESIS		

GENERATION X ACTION FIGURES

£5.06 + 89p VAT = £5.95 each

TS772: EMPLATE: The Villain who feeds on Young Mutant Marrow. With Doa Miniature Figure accessory and Arm extending action.

TS773: JUBILEE: Jubilation Lee, a very young Mall Rat before she evidenced mutant abilities. With Plasma Hurling Action and Rollerblade accessories.

TS774: PENANCE: Emplate's prisoner, for many years, Penance, who can turn into a mutant diamond hard razor sharp weapon / being, is now at Professor Xavier's School. Comes with Claw Slashing Action and Hand and Leg Shackle accessories.

TS775: PHALANX: Another villain, his mission absorb or destroy all mutants comes with Live Captive Heads on Chest which become Animated and a Snap On Gun Accessory.

TS776: SKIN: Young Angelo has six extra feet of SKIN that he can manipulate at will. Comes with Growing Fingers Action and a Headset Communications Pack Accessory.

BIN ENDS

We always seem to end up with odd assortments of items in ones, two and fives. Some are listed here at remainder prices to clear.

TS52: CARNAGE PVC Figure
£1.69 + 30p VAT = ...£1.99
TS53: WOLVERINE PVC Figure
£1.69 + 30p VAT = ...£1.99
TS54: MAGNETO PVC Figure
£1.69 + 30p VAT = ...£1.99
TS55: CYCLOPS PVC Figure
£1.69 +30p VAT = ...£1.99
TS351: FLYING ALIEN QUEEN Action Figure
£4.21 + 74p VAT = ...£4.95
TS317: SCORPION ALIEN Action Figure
£3.36 + 59p VAT = ...£3.95
TS352: SPACE MARINE Action Figure
£4.21 + 74p VAT = ...£4.95
TS353: ALIENS QUEEN HIVE Playset with ooze
£16.98 + £2.97 VAT = ...£19.95
TS378: ALIENS Vs PREDATOR Action Figure
£4.21 + 74p VAT = ...£4.95
TS385: PREDATOR BLADE FIGHTER VEHICLE
£3.36 + 59p VAT = ...£3.95
TS425: DAILY BUGLE PLAYSET
£12.72 + £2.23 VAT = ...£14.95
TS426: HOBGOBLIN WING BOMBER
£8.47 + £1.48 VAT = ...£9.95
TS427: SPIDERMAN POSEABLE PLUSH DOLL
£8.47 + £1.48 VAT = ...£9.95
TS692: VIOLATOR 6" ACTION FIGURE
£4.21 + 74p VAT = ...£4.95
TS694: SPAWN vs VIOLATOR Two smaller figures in display box £4.21 + 74p VAT = ...£4.95
TS695: SPAWN BOARD GAME
£5.06 + 89p VAT = ...£5.95
TS828: DRACULA (Coppola movie) WOLF Vinyl Model Kit £7.62 + £1.33 VAT = ...£8.95
TS829: DRACULA (Coppola movie) BAT Vinyl Model Kit £7.62 + £1.33 VAT = ...£8.95
TS830: DRACULA (Coppola) ARMOUR Vinyl Model Kit £7.62 + £1.33 VAT = ...£8.95
TS850: JUDGE DREDD Vinyl Model Kit
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TS856: JUDGE DEATH Vinyl Model Kit
£8.47 + £1.48 VAT = ...£9.95
TS857: CABLE Vinyl Model Kit
£8.47 + £1.48 VAT = ...£9.95
TS859: HAN SOLO 12: Vinyl Model Kit
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TS920: LUNAR LANDER Model Kit
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TS921: RETRIEVAL ROCKET Model Kit
£2.51 + 44p VAT = ...£2.95
TS5326: RUBBER CHICKEN (novelty item)
£2.51 + 44p VAT = ...£2.95

Once we had the bit between our teeth with checking out the limited availability Toy and Action Figure stocks that you'll find on pages 12 & 13, we decided to plough straight ahead on this fourteenth page, and virtually liquidate everything we could find. Accordingly this page 14 is chock-a-block with all kinds of fascinating memorabilia. Please remember that all stocks are limited as to quantity available. Search & enjoy.

BATMAN THE ANIMATED SERIES 5" ACTION FIGURES with ACCESSORIES

TS701: MECH WING BATMAN (illustrated) £5.06 + 89p VAT = ... £5.95
TS702: HIGH WIRE BATMAN £5.06 + 89p VAT = ...£5.95
TS730: COMBAT BELT BATMAN £4.21 + 74p VAT = ...£4.95
TS733: MANBAT £5.06 + 89p VAT = ...£5.95
TS740: CATWOMAN £5.06 + 89p VAT = ...£5.95
TS741: INFRARED BATMAN £4.21 + 74p VAT = ...£4.95
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and THE ULTIMATE BATMAN

38 cm (15") Batman Figure, based on the award winning animated series designs: with light up chest emblem, light up eyes and double barrel assault weapon (takes two batteries) £12.72 + £2.23 VAT =.....£14.95

LEGENDS OF THE BATMAN:

***SPECIAL:* BATMOBILE approx. 40cms long with missile detonator and quick lift canopy: designed in scale with 5" figures, one of which can be placed in the driving seat:**
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Special: £12.72 + £2.23 VAT =.....£14.95

OTHER BATMAN 5" FIGURES

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TS4002: BLASTCAPE BATMAN
TS4003: FIREGUARD BATMAN
TS4004: MANTA RAY BATMAN
TS4005: NIGHT HUNTER BATMAN
TS4006: SONAR SENSOR BATMAN
TS4007: TRANSFORMING BRUCE WAYNE
TS4010: ROBIN STREET BIKER

3" PVC FIGURES

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TS1150: McCOY PVC
TS1151: CHEKOV PVC FIGURE
TS1152: UHURA PVC FIGURE
TS1153: SPOCK PVC FIGURE
TS1154: SCOTTY PVC FIGURE
TS1155: KIRK PVC FIGURE
TS1520: PICARD
TS1522: DATA
TS1524: KIRK
TS1526: WORF
TS1666: BOBA FETT
TS1668: C3PO
TS1670: DARTH VADER
TS1672: GAMBIT
TS5445A: ROGUE
TS5445B: SPIDERMAN

TICK 3" ACTION FIGURES

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TS5200: DYNA MOLE
TS5202: CHAIRFACE CHIPPENDALE
TS5203: DEAN
TS5304: EL SEED
TS5205: CRUSADING CHAMELEON
TS5206: HUMAN BULLET
TS5207: THE TICK
TS5208: ARTHUR
TS5209: AMERICAN MAID
TS5210: SEWER URCHIN

TICK 5" ACTION FIGURES

all at £3.36 + 59p VAT =.....£3.95
TS5219: CRUSADING CHAMELEON
TS5220: EVIL TONGUE
TS5221: HURLING TICK
TS5222: MUCAS TICK
TS5223: ROBOT DOG SKIPPY
TS5224: AMERICAN MAID

IMAGE COMICES MINI ACTION FIGURES

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TS5330: WILDCATS DAEMONITE
TS5332: BADROCK
TS5334: BRAHMA & RIPTIDE
TS5336: CHAPEL & VOGUE
TS5338: COMBAT & PSI FIRE
TS5340: DIE HARD & LINK
TS5342: PHOTON & SHAFT
TS5344: SENTINEL & COUGAR

TS5328: WILDCATS BULLET BIKE MODEL
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TS4051: BLACK BOLT
TS4052: DR DOOM
TS4053: MR FANTASTIC
TS4054: SILVER SURFER
TS4055: THE THING

OTHER 5" ACTION FIGURES

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TS1160: BEVERLEY CRUSHER
TS1161: DR SORAN
TS1163: JEAN LUC
TS1168: ADMIRAL KIRK
TS1169: GEORDI LA FORGE
TS1171: DATA
TS1560: PICARD AS DIXON HILL
TS1561: PICARD DUTY UNIFORM
TS1562: RIKER AS MALCORIAN
TS1563: DR SUNG
TS1564: WESLEY CRUSHER
TS1565: LT BARCLAY
TS1566: DATA IN DRESS UNIFORM
TS1567: DATA AS ROMULAN
TS1568: WORF IN STARFLEET RESCUE UNIFORM
TS1570: Q IN JUDGES ROBE
TS4102: GI JOE FREIGHT
TS4103: GI JOE INFERNO
TS4104: GI JOE IRON CLAW
TS4105: GI JOE LT STONE
TS4107: GI JOE SGT SAVAGE
TS4151: LASER SUPERMAN

PAIRED 5" ACTION FIGURES

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TS1634: STAR WARS SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE: BOBA FETT vs IG88
TS1636: STAR WARS SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE: PRINCE XIZOR VS DARTH VADER

JIM LEE'S TMNT 6" ACTION FIGURES

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TS4170: BARBARIC
TS4171: BATTLE DAMAGE DRAGON
TS4172: DONATELLO
TS4173: MICHAELANGELO
TS4174: RAPHAEL

10" VINYL DOLLS

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TS982D: BOBA FETT
TS983: LUKE WITH YODA
TS984: DARTH VADER
TS985: HAN IN STORM TROOPER UNIFORM
TS986: CHEWIE WITH C3PO
TS1261: UHURA
TS1262: CHEKOV
TS1263: SCOTTY
TS1264: SULU
TS1265: McCOY
TS1266: ANDORIAN
TS1267: TALOSIAN
TS1268: PICARD
TS1269: DATA
TS1270: TROY
TS1271: LA FORGE
TS1272: FERENGI
TS1273: WORF
TS1274: KIRA
TS1275: SISKO
TS1278: KLINGON
TS1630: STAR WARS SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE DASH RENDAR
TS1632: STAR WARS SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE PRINCE XIZOR

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TS5301: FIRE VALKYRIE
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TS5307: RISING GUNDAM
TS5308: YAMATO 2520
TS5309: DASH GUNDAM
TS5313: MOBILE FIGHTER G
TS5315: ARMOUR GUYVER II ELEGEN

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TS4203: MARS
TS4205: MOON
TS4206: VENUS

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TS955: DATA
TS956: WORF
TS973: C3PO
TS977: BOBA FETT
TS979: DARTH VADER
TS980: STORM TROOPER
TS1590: BORG
TS1592: TROI

BATMAN FOREVER FIGURAL MUGS

TS4025: BATMAN
TS4026: ROBIN
TS4028: TWO FACE

LOONEY TUNES FIGURAL MUGS

TS5360: BUGS BUNNY
TS5362: MARVIN THE MARTIAN
TS5364: ROAD RUNNER
TS5366: TASMANIAN DEVIL
TS5368: TWEETY PIE
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TS5350: GEN 13 FREEFALL
TS5352: GEN 13 GRUNGE
TS5354: CROW (BLACK)
TS5355: CROW (WHITE)
TS5356: JAMES BOND 007
TS5388: SOVEREIGN 7
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TS1195: NEXT GEN TYPE ONE PHASER
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TS870: DARTH VADER : FULL SIZE FACE MASK & HELMET set
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TS871: STAR TREK MICRO MACHINES £7.62 + £1.33 VAT =.....£8.95
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Phew! That's a whole lot of toys, models and cards. Is there more to come? Definitely - As we went through double checking our boxes and bin ends we came across even more cards, so here we present an extra selection of **CARD PACKS:**
All packs in this section are 42p + 7p VAT = ...49p each

TC510: COCACOLA SERIES 3:
TC516: BEAVIS & BUTTHEAD
TC527: LEE MACLEOD SCIFI FANTASY
TC543: ULTRAVERSE ORIGINS
TC544: BENCHWARMER SERIES II
TCB01: ALL TIME HEROES OF BASEBALL
TCB02: ARCHIVES OF THE ULTIMATE 1954 SET OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
TC803: COLLECTORS CHOICE '94 NFL CARDS
TC804: COLLECTORS CHOICE BASKETBALL 95/96
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TC807: FLAIR 95-96 NBA BASKETBALL
TC808: FLEER METAL 95-96 BASKETBALL
TC809: FRIDIRON FASTASY FOOTBALL BOOSTER
TC809A: GRIDIRON FASTASY FOOTBALL STARER
TC811: ULTRAFLEER 95-96 NBA BASKETBALL SERIES I
TC812: PINNACLE SUPER PACK
TC815: NBA BASKETBALL 93-94 SERIES I
TC817: NFL PREMIUM FOOTBALL
TC819: NHL HOCKEY 95-96
TC821: PINNACLE BASEBALL SERIES II 1996
TC823: PINNACLE NFL QUARTERBACK
TC825: UPPERDECK 1995 MOTORSPORT

Tha-tha-that's all folks, more next time, write soon,
Colin & The Warehouse Crew

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COMMENT

Comment is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry. As such, the following opinions do not necessarily reflect those of this publication, but space will be given in subsequent issues to well-reasoned opposing views. Submissions are edited only for grammar, clarity and brevity.

A variant opinion

Comment by Rick Appleby, Dream Comics, Hertfordshire

I WOULD like to add some further points to Skinny Melink's remarks about variant covers (*Comment*, **CI** #88). Whether we like it or not, the publishing houses have created a collectors' market for variants, which few comic dealers can afford to ignore. Regardless of the price, or the views of the particular retailer, there are collectors who *do want* all 11 covers of **Darkness** #0, and **Youngblood** #1.

But how viable is this particular market? For example, how truthful is the information given regarding these so-called exclusive, limited, and variant covers? How accurate are the print run figures? And who verifies them? What happens to print over-runs, if any?

Does merely adding a gold/silver/platinum foil to the title logo make a comic exclusive? Is it really worth the price being asked? Do you really need to have it? Is the story unique, or just a reprint with a different cover?

And does anybody remember the Gold and Platinum editions of **1963**? That book's storyline still hasn't been finished!

I recently had to ask myself many of these same questions when I was offered a large collection of variant cover comics. Ultimately I had to decline the offer. Not because of the asking price, or because of their condition; rather, I did not believe that enough of my customers would buy them. Even the vendor himself admitted that he was selling them because he himself had lost interest in them. And that he could neither keep up with the sheer number of variants being produced, nor afford to do so.

No wonder there is a general decline in the price of variants. Is it really necessary to produce one every time a new comic comes out?

Ultimately, I have to agree with Skinny Melink that what may have started out as an interesting gimmick has indeed turned into crass and blatant manipulation by the publishers.

The industry was healthier and better off without variants, but if this is what the fans want, then it is what they deserve.

Evolve or die!

Comment by Richard Bruton, retailer, Birmingham

I'D LIKE to respond to two letters in **CI** #88 – Dave Hill's "More room for diversity" and Andrew Spencer's "Like the gherkin in the Big Mac".

Just because superheroes have been the backbone of the comics industry for the past 50 years does not mean that they will always be so. But it's a vicious circle – shops sell superhero comics because that's what the distributors offer them, who in turn are constrained by the publishers, who tell us that they produce superheroes because that's what we want.

Mind you, superhero comics are great when they're done well, such as **Watchmen**, **Miracleman**, **JLA**, **The Dark Knight Returns**, and Frank Miller's **Daredevils**, to name but a few. They're also bland and boring when done badly (no need to give examples of these!). Likewise, non-superhero comics can be absolutely sublime or terrible, although with more genres to explore and their considerable diversity, they do offer greater potential for excellence.

But it's not simply a case of "diversity vs superhero". As Dave Hill pointed out, superheroes are unique to comics, and there's plenty of room for them in the medium. But it's also about time we realised that the comics industry cannot continue to champion superhero comics as the only viable genre. Otherwise the medium that we all so love will barely see in the millennium.

Already there aren't many comic shops left. Sure there are plenty of pop-culture shops selling equal parts toys, trading cards, T-shirts, role playing games *and* comics, but there are very few

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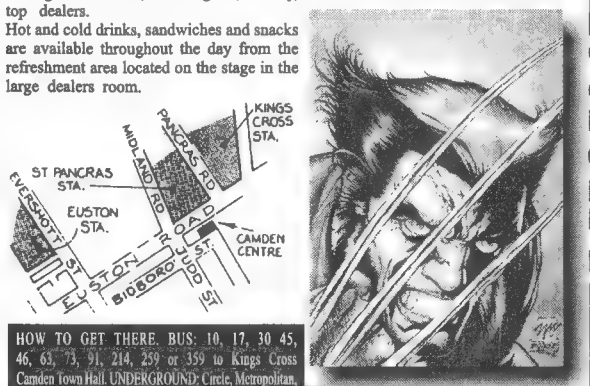

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actual comic shops. It would be nice to have some comic equivalent of Dillon's where people could shop for comics, whether superhero or otherwise, without tripping over all the extras that a modern comic shop must sell just to stay in business.

It all seems to come down to two opposing views: one side likes comics the way they are now (which it erroneously believes is the way they have always been). The other camp sees the medium as evolving, and regards the current situation as an unacceptable way station. Personally, I'm with them.

As for Mr Hill's contention that we should be thankful that there is "a surfeit of trite, rubbishy, and semi-pornographic superheroes" since we can only recognise greatness when it is surrounded by a sea of shite, I hope that he's joking!

Greatness is easily recognisable, whether in isolation or in a crowd, and I would much rather that greatness was surrounded by a flock of comparable brilliance than the rubbish that Mr Hill thinks is so necessary.

Jimmy Olsen's super brain

Comment by Charles Malloy Hampton, Muswell Hill, London

" ULTIMATELY, IN 1,000 YEARS, THE INCREASING STRESSES WOULD HAVE CAUSED OUR TOP-HEAVY WORLD TO BLOW APART..."
SO THAT'S IT!... BY HAVING ME SHIFT WEIGHT, FROM THE HEAVY TO THE LIGHT HALF OF EARTH, THE COSMIC BRAIN ELIMINATED THAT DANGER FOREVER!
BUT WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME OF EARTH'S DANGER? WAIT--THE NOTE ASKS ME TO RE-CALL THAT NERVOUS DIAMOND CUTTER...
I SLIPPED YOU ANOTHER REAL DIAMOND! KEEPING YOU IN THE DARK PREVENTED THE JITTERS!
SIMILARLY, THE COSMIC BRAIN KEPT ME IN THE DARK! HE REALIZED THAT IF I WERE NERVOUS AND JITTERY, I MIGHT HAVE MADE AN ERROR AND BLOWN UP THE WORLD NOW!
PERRY WHITE EDITOR

OFTEN I like to contrast my reading of new titles by dipping into the past and reading old comics, generally no more expensive to buy than the latest imports!

I was reading an old **Jimmy Olsen** last night and it made me wonder about whether the demands of the average 8-14 year old are any different now to what they were 20 or 30 years ago.

Assuming I'm right about the age group comics traditionally aim at, 1960s' comics have an incredible naivety compared with the pseudo-sophistication of the current crop. Let me elaborate:

The Super-Brain of Jimmy Olsen features Superman's pal getting a brain boost, courtesy of Professor Potter, evolving him into "a boy of the year 1,000,000AD".

The eight-page story tells how Jimmy the Cosmic Brain sets Superman the strange task of digging a 100 mile wide crater at the South Pole, and then filling it with wreckage, sand and the heaviest mountain in the Himalayas(!).

Jimmy gives the Man of Steel no indication of why he must do this, only threatening to reveal his secret identity to the world (or stare at him with kryptonite vision) should he refuse.

Only 12 hours later, when the evolution accelerator has conveniently worn off and Jimmy has forgotten all his boosted knowledge, does Superman discover why he had been set the task.

A note on Jimmy's desk *(see visual)* explains that the Earth was out of balance, most of its land masses being in the northern hemisphere. In a 1000 years, the stresses would cause the top-heavy world to blow apart, so Superman had saved the world by "heavying-up" the southern hemisphere.

Oooookay, let's go along with that, because it gets better.

...Naturally, Professor Potter's machine was fuelled by now used-up rare meteoric metal, so no more cosmic brain guinea pigs, but why didn't Jimmy tell Superman up front what the problem was? Get ready to suspend your disbelief from the highest rafter.

Because, like an apprentice

jewel cutter would be nervous of shattering a diamond on his first attempt to cut it, as Superman puts it, "Similarly, the Cosmic Brain kept me in the dark! He realised that if I were nervous and jittery, I might have made an error and blown up the world now!".

R-r-right. Just like cutting a diamond, eh? One slip and, whoops, bye-bye world. But this is Superman, the most powerful being in the galaxy. Not someone prone to too many cases of the jitters.

Not really an apprentice on his first time out.

And, hang on, what kind of error can you make when tossing a pile of junk into a 100 mile crater. "Damn, missed the hole and destroyed the Falklands!"

But, hey, this is a comic book. And it's aimed at 12-year olds. Or it was.

Nowadays we don't see too many 8-page complete stories outside of **2000AD**. But then, that's a different subject.

My point is, would such an idea play in the 1990s? In the '50s and (early) '60s, such stories sold over half a million. When Marvel started aiming at college students with its heroes, it began the move away from young teenagers to the situation we have today, where (US) comics aim almost totally at adult fans. And there certainly aren't half a million of those!

If somebody had the guts to produce naive comic stories, would there be a greater likelihood of kids picking them up? I really can't see a casual buyer picking up an **X-Men**, or one of the current long-winded episodic **Superman** comics. Instead of three complete stories, a comic usually contains only one chapter of an "ongoing story arc" (don't you just love what's being done to the English language?). And that's assuming a casual would even come across a comic in the first place.

Maybe it's as much the fault of Frank Miller and Alan Moore as it is that of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

Just as **The Fantastic Four** made a new market for itself, so did **The Dark Knight Returns** and **Watchmen**. But these high sellers were only blips. Yet somehow, the entire industry acted like a child seeing a new toy. It dropped all of its other toys in favour of the shiney new one.

So everything matured (thanks, Marvel), then everything turned gritty (thanks, Frank and Alan).

Now, having lost its old toys, the business is floundering, looking for something new to play with.

The "Adventures" animation-style comics go a way to restoring the balance. But most of them are so damn condescending. At least they're self-contained, but they're generally badly drawn and remarkably uninventive in their plots.

And the covers? That **Jimmy Olsen** was irresistible.

It featured Jimmy as a bald egg-head, warning Superman to do his bidding or face his kryptonite eyes at full power. You just had to pick it up and see what the hell was going on.

Now most covers are little more than superhero poses, and totally interchangeable.

I gather the covers used to be produced first, as hard-sell shop windows for what was within. Writers would then attempt to come up with stories to explain the eye-catching covers.

Which goes a long way to explaining some of the hokum plots. But they worked. Who could resist seeing whether Sgt Rock would discover in time that the orphaned war baby was really a Nazi midget holding a hand grenade?

Or whether Superman was in love with Lois or Lana when succumbing to a hidden mind reading machine?

Perhaps comics have grown up, but given the overuse of babes, boobs and big... well, big guns, big muscles... big everything, I doubt it.

I saw an old issue of the British weekly **Valiant** the other week. I'd forgotten how much things had changed over here too. For about 10p, you'd get seven or eight stories; war, adventure, humour, sport... all in one comic. Some of the artwork was really excellent, and the writing was so tight it squeaked. No wasted copy, no full page pictures, just great comics. **Valiant** happily sold over half a million, I gather. I hear **2000AD** is down to less than 50,000.

Have times changed that much. People blame it on the competition, computer games and such. But what competition is that? Comics are still relatively cheap (unlike Game Boy) and have always had competition, with toys, movies and sweets.

Let's face it, comics are in a serious rut. In America, it's 90% superheroes, in Britain it's 90% Mega-City sci-fi. Nothing wrong with either, but cinema and TV haven't ditched everything else in favour of special effects and game shows.

Hollywood seems to be realising that the product is more important than its stars. Comics still have that lesson to learn. Let's get back to basics and have strong story-led titles, with covers which make you want to buy the things. The writers and artists should be living off the characters, not the other way round or comics will end up as a niche market instead of a medium.

GRADING GUIDE

One of the most problematic areas of buying, selling or valuing comics is grading. A value can vary by as much as 75% through inaccurate assessment of the condition or grade of the item. The days of a comic being "good condition for its age" disappeared with decimalisation.

With the ever-increasing values for old comics, grading has become a science. The more expensive titles often carrying a percentage "score", between 100 (mint) and 1 (poor). Defects such as graffiti, shop stamps, taped spine and loose staples should be mentioned outside of the grade, with the value reduced accordingly (usually one grade down). To help people assess the grading of their collections better, we present the following definitions:

MINT CONDITION [m] (100%):
An almost impossible acquisition. A comic is mint when it is printed. But it then is counted, stacked, boxed, shipped, counted again, despatched again, counted again and racked in a store. By the time you buy it, it will be near mint at best. Collectors and dealers hardly ever list mint comics. When they do, selling prices are almost always "multiple guide" (ie. Two, three or more times the price stated for a mint copy in the price guides).
M has no defects whatsoever. *It retains its cover gloss (or lustre) and has sharp corners. No printing or binding defects. Staples centred, fresh and shiny. Literally as new.*

NEAR MINT [nm++, nm+, nm, nm-, nm--] (97-90%)
The top grade. A particularly handsome copy in near mint is often referred to as nm+, whereas one almost near mint is referred to as nm-. The more expensive the comic, the more precise the grading, with some dealers using the additional emphasis of nm++ or nm--. We're talking only a 5% difference in price, but on a $1000 plus item, that's $50 a +!
NM has no instantly apparent defects. *A very slight defect is permissible, such as a binding or printing mistake. No fading, spine roll or cover surface wear beyond the smallest corner crease or very slight stress around staples. Cover well centred, still flat and without wear. Spine tight and flat. Interior pages clean white and supple.*

VERY FINE [vf or vfn, from ++ to --] (89-75%)
Still an excellent copy, as much as 25% cheaper than a near mint copy, but with minimal wear beginning to show. Still sharp, clean and bright.
VFN has several very minor defects. *Cover: almost flat, minimal surface wear. Slight wear and very small corner creasing. Staples may be slightly discoloured. Corners may have minute wear. Up to one half-inch light cover crease is acceptable. Interior paper may be slightly off-white.*

FINE [fn, from ++ to --] (74-55%)
Not to be confused with fr or f, the abbreviations for the much lower grade of FAIR. Fine is quite a collectable grade. No major creasing or defects, quite carefully read, but multiple times!
FN has no major defects. *It does have an accumulation of minor defects, small creases, corner knocks or spine damage. But no major faults.*

VERY GOOD [vg, from + to -] (54-35%)
Despite its name, vg is not very good at all. It is an average used comic book, and the lowest acceptable level for most collectors.
VG has moderate wear, cover creasing or spine roll. *Perhaps some fading and discolouration of interior pages. It has no pieces out, except possibly a small cover edge, though crosswords, puzzles or coupons may have been completed. Centre pages may be detached or covers loose from a single staple. Minor tape repair may be present.*

GOOD [g] (34-15%)
Complete, except for small pieces missing, usually around staples or edges. For reading and gap filling until a better grade copy comes along.
G copies will be badly creased, but readable and complete. *Pages should not be brittle, but will have lost their suppleness and usually be off-colour.*

FAIR [FR or F] (14-5%)
Another contradictory grade. Unfair would describe it better.
FR copies will be very badly damaged. No interior pages missing, but cover will have a soiled or well-scuffed cover with spine badly torn and rolled. Chunks may be missing from cover. Ageing on older titles is to be expected, with interior paper browning as it approaches brittleness.

POOR [P or PR] (4-1%)
Few dealers list poor copies unless they are curiosity items.
PR copies can have brown tape, stains, severe tears, extra staples, and chunks missing *(normally detailed by vendor). For interest's sake only.*

For further grading information, readers are recommended to refer to either the **USOverstreet Comic Book Price Guide** (currently in its 27th year) or the **UK's(McAlpine) Comic Book Price Guide**(in its 7th year). Both are available from most comics shops or mail order suppliers.

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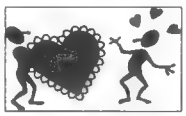

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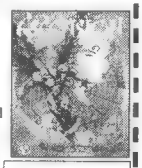

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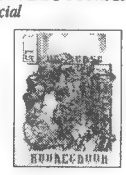

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Q AND A

***Comics International** invites you to confuse the editors with your questions, or save them with your answers! Write to:*
Q&A, Comics International, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

Where's Adam?

David Wright,
18 Moorland Cres, Leeds

Q COULD you please tell me what project Adam Hughes will be doing next?

A *Adam Hughes is rumoured to be working on another **Gen**[13] project for WildStorm and in the meantime appears to be treading water by only producing cover artwork.*

*Before the line was suddenly put on hold, Hughes was set to both write and draw **No One**, a creator-owned series for Dark Horse's Blanc Noir imprint.*

Although the imprint is possibly to be revived this year, the word from Dark Horse is that the Adam Hughes series had been put on hold indefinitely.

Lantern mystery

Ewan Drysdale,
30 St Albans Rd, Edinburgh

Q I WAS wondering if you could help me with a problem. There was a comic I have been trying to track down. It must be from the very late '70s or very early '80s as I was very young at the time.

It was a special issue (No.2?) of **Green Lantern** where a whole bunch of the Corps get there butts kicked by a very big, purple muscly bloke (dressed in black and white).

Hal Jordan saves the day by "collecting" the will power from all the fallen GLs into his ring. I think it's also the time when Stel the robot died. Who? What? Where?

A *I knew we couldn't keep our 100% batting average up for long. Probably, the issue you are looking for, Ewan, would appear to be **Green Lantern Corps Annual** #2, by Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neil (which, depsite the rest of the run being OK, was an early title not approved by the Comics Code Authority but published anyway). Perhaps somebody with a better memory, or fuller collection, can confirm this next month... or make the usual fools out of us all!*

1950s UK titles

Edward McDonald
swedmc@globalnet.co.uk

Q I AM looking for some info on some British comics from around about 1951—1953. The titles I have are:

Sun Comic: Dec 15th 1951
Jingles: Sept 13th 1952
Tiny Tots and the Sunbeam: Jan 24th 1953
Tip Top: March 14th 1953.

Any information on these comics, (ie: origin and value) would be much appreciated.

A *Not one of these titles is listed in our first port of call, **The Comic Book Price Guide**, so it's probably time to sit back and wait for another helping of British comics history from that Cochester-based walking encyclopedia, Steve Holland. Except that he compiles the UK section of the price guide!*

*For a bit of history, Denis Gifford's **British Comic Catalogue 1874-1974** (Mansell hardback, ISDN 0 7201 0529 3) is long out of print, but it does tell us that **Sun Comic**, the Amalgamated Press companion to **Comet**, lasted 558 issues, from 1947 to 1959. A fortnightly, the 1951 issue you have features plenty of the greats: Hugh McNeill on Fighting O'Flynn, the Inspector General and a Wind in the Willows reprint, MacGillivray's She Wore a Yellow Ribbon, Moko the Monk and Clip McCord and a handful of humour strips by Fleetway mainstay Roy Davis (Alfred the Great, 55BC and Charlie Chipmunk). It's amazing that they used to cram 13 strips into a 16 (or later 24) page format. Not bad value for 2d (old money)!*

*Pre-school titles, **Tip Top, Tiny Tots** and **Jingles** don't really have the same collectability as the old adventure titles like **Sun**, and are often of more personal value that monetary worth. So we'd suggest you hold on to them!*

X-Men reprints

Paul Tonkington,
13 Elysian Terrace, Eastbourne

Q SOMETHING has always bugged me about all the **X-Men** reprints: why hasn't Marvel ever reprinted either **Uncanny X-Men** #106 or #110?

Neither story appeared in **Classic X-Men**, is there any reason why?

A ***Uncanny X-Men** #106 was actually scripted by Chris Claremont from a plot by Bill Mantlo. Claremont wrote the framing sequence to a story which was a fill-in issue to allow John Byrne time to catch up on his busy schedule (he was pencilling one monthly and two bi-monthly comics at the time).*

*The story told of Professor Xavier's first meeting with the being known as The Entity, who he later battled in the Mantlo-written **X-Men & Micronauts** mini-series.*

*The flashback to Xavier's battle with robots of the original X-Men supposedly took place a few days earlier, but it has never been referred to in any X-Men title, apart from the aforementioned **X-Men & Micronauts**.*

One of the comic's biggest drawbacks was the art – by Bob Brown and Tom Sutton – which harkened back to the pre-cancellation days of the late Sixties.

*As the story had no bearing on any major X-Men event, it was probably omitted from the **Classic X-Men** reprints largely because the **X-Men & Micronauts** series was unlikely to be reprinted.*

***Uncanny X-Men** #110 is a slightly more difficult proposition.*

Written by Claremont, but quite clearly a fill-in issue, it used some pencils by Dave Cockrum (possibly from an unfinished story), but the majority was pencilled and inked by the Philippine artist Tony DeZuniga.

*The story involved Warhawk (a creation of Claremont's from his run on **Iron Fist**) infiltrating the X-Men's mansion to rig the Danger Room to fight against the X-Men. The mutants captured Warhawk and handed him over to the police. But it wasn't until much later that Claremont revealed that Warhawk's true agenda was to place a spying device for the Hellfire Club.*

*The reason for this issue's failure to be reprinted is not clear, but like #106 it suffered from sub-standard artwork, especially when compared to the rest of that particular run of **X-Men**. It might have been decided that the issue's abrupt change in style might hinder sales of the reprint title.*

Black comics

Dee Thomas, South Kensington
London SW7

Q CAN you provide me with any contact names and addresses where I can obtain black comics in the US?

I know they exist and I mean the ones which have nothing whatsoever to do with Milestone or Luke Cage, and suchlike.

A *Could you be thinking of Adeola, publishers of **Trans Nubians**?*

Formerly Ania's Afrocentric Comics, the company was set up by that company's public relations director, Roger Barnes and was involved in events such as Black History Month.

*We've no address for Adeola and the last issue of **Previews** it was listed in was volume VI #5 (July 1996 shipping) when it solicited **Trans Nubians** #2!*

Corben reprints

David Evans, Swansea

Q IN THE 1980s, Richard Corben's underground stories were reprinted in a series entitled **The Complete Works of Richard Corben**, published (I think) by Catalan Communications Ltd.

How many volumes were there in the series?

I've also been told that the reprinted stories were censored-redrawn-cut and reconstituted. If this is true, what stories were censored, what was censored in these stories and were all the volumes censored?

Did Richard Corben give his permission for any alterations and how do I contact Catalan Communications?

A *Catalan Communications published at least eight Corben collections:*

***The Bodyssey** [1986]*
***Edgar Allan Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Tales of Horror** [1985]*
***The Last Voyage of Sinbad** [1988]*
***Mutant World** [1985]*
***Muvovum** [1984]*
***Neverwhere** [1984]*
***Werewolves** [1984]*

As for Catalan censoring Corben's material, it's unlikely, but they may have done the film trick of having two versions, one for cautious markets and one for Spain!

*But, in his introduction to the **Mutant World** volume, writer Jan Strnad – a frequent Corben collaborator – thanked the company for "the restoration of the original dialogue, mutated in the series publication (in the USA) by a scurrilous editor".*

He also expressed his gratitude for being offered the opportunity to add additional new material to expand certain sequences and to make the story seem more like one seamless work than a collection of reprints.

*Finding out how to contact Catalan is proving a bit difficult. The company was set up by Barcelona-based Josep Toutain, best known to US and UK comic fans for saving Jim Warren's horror comics (**Vapirella, Creepy, Errie**) with his Spanish artists. Toutain did, in afct, continue the Spanish editions long after Warren ceased, updating Warren's **1984** to **1994**. But he was an early casualty in the Spanish comics recession, although he did resurface through his Catalan Communications.*

But we can't find any recent mention to the company which last traded (in 1985, to our knowledge) from 43 East 19th Street, New York 10003.

A Sloano trio

El Sloano, 34 Hillhead Street
Glasgow, Scotland G12 8PZ

Q I REMEMBER reading in **Marvel Age**, circa Miller and Mazzuchelli's run on **Daredevil**, that after the Nuke storyline, a story arc drawn by Walt Simonson would conclude Miller's tenure.

It was to involve Hornhead in a story about the effects of child abuse. Did it ever appear or am I imagining things?

Does John Wagner have any plans to star Judge Giant Jr in either the **Megazine** or **2000AD**?

Whatever happened to the excellent **Sinner** by Munoz and Sampayo, published by Fantagraphics? The company advertised a graphic novel from the Argentinean creators, **Nicaragua**, but it's never to my knowledge appeared. Can anyone help?

A *To answer you in order:*

i) Walt's Daredevil story was shelved. We'll try to get hold of him for details.

*ii) With the current changes afoot in **The Megazine**, John Wagner isn't likely to be*

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expanding on Dredd stories, but, as's probably reading this at about the same time as you, you may have put an idea into his head!

iii) **Sinner** was solicited as forthcoming (we ran it in our Advance Listings!), but possibly the trade orders were not high enough to warrant printing it.

Japanese history

James Wilson, 18 Mead Cresc, Dartford, Kent DA1

I WONDERED if you could help with some research for my Japanese Coursework.

I need any information you have about the Japanese style of art known as Anime or Manga.

I would like to know when it was created, by who and anything else you might have of interest. Even any addresses you can give me to write off for information, would be helpful.

WEll first off, anime and manga may have a visual similarity but they're not the same animal. For anybody else unaware's benefit: Manga is the Japanese word for comics while anime refers to animated cartoons.

As for when either was created or by whom, I think it would be as difficult a question to answer as which artist invented the modern style of drawing superhero comics and when?

It developed over the years and from the cultural backgrounds and influences of the creators involved.

*For the full story, you might want to pick up **Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics** by Frederik L. Schodt [Kodansha America] and Helen McCarthy's **Anime! A Beginner's Guide** [Titan Books].*

Hypersonic website

Mike Kelleher, Crofton House, Bromley, Kent

In the piece on Gary Erskine (*Q&A* **CI** #87), he mentioned a web site for Hypersonic. Do you have the address.

A simple one: http://www.vr1.com

Mike Zeck index

Malcolm P Jones, Elsie Street, Thorne Moorends West Yorkshire

Can you supply me with a checklist for Mike Zeck?

With Mike Zeck's assistance, we can provide the following:

I started working in comics in the mid '70s doing strips for some of the horror titles at Charlton Comics.

*Got my first monthly title at Marvel in '77, **Master of Kung-Fu**. Stuck with that for 3 years.*

*Followed that with a 3 year run on **Captain America**.*

*Then pencilled the **Secret Wars** 12 issue maxi-series.*

*Around '86 I teamed up with Steven Grant for the first time on the first **Punisher** limited series. That launched the Punisher as one of Marvel's flagship characters. We teamed up again on the Punisher graphic novel **Return to Big Nothing** and never came back to the character again.*

*Had great fun with writer Marc DeMatteis on the six issue Spider-man epic The Death of Kraven the Hunter. That was the ultimate definition of Kraven as a character. Marc and I revisited Spidey recently with the 4 issue **Spider-man: Redemption** story line.*

*Teamed up with Grant again on a two part **Legends of the Dark Knight** story, Criminals.*

*Recent years also saw some work at Malibu Comics on a character called **Eliminator** and a double sized **Bloodshot** story at Acclaim.*

*Ever since our Punisher work, Grant and I have talked about doing some crime type stuff together. It took 10 years for talk to become action. [**Damned** from Homage Comics]*

General's first

Richard J Smith, Flat 2 26 Manchester Rd, Thurlstone Sheffield, South Yorks

WHICH **Batman** comic was the first appearance of the General, and where else has he appeared other than in **Robin**?

*The General can't be that popular a character as not a single reference book makes mention of him... not even Michael Fleisher's **Batcyclopedia**!*

Which Superman?

C. Barnett, 46 Abbotsford Ct Greenfaulds, Cumbernauld, Glasgow G67 4BQ

MY query concerns a **Superman** comic I got when I was small, sometime in the early Seventies. These days it has no cover and a few pages missing from the front and back of it.

It's mostly black and white, but has some colour pages and reprints stories from the '30s through to about 1971. My copy ends at the start of a story involving Superman being transported to what looks like a glass/crystal room and George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and General Custer.

Can you identify the comic for me and the reprint, as I have no idea who published it or when?

*This one is going out on a limb, but, given that the strips are a mix of black and white as well as colour reprints, covering the '30s to the '70s, there's a good chance you've got a coverless copy of that chunky tome, **Superman: From the '30s to the '70s**. A companion Batman title was also published, both existing as UK and US editions.*

Ray, Shazam and GL

"Mad" Steven Morrell, 881 Barnsley Road, Sheffield

WHO CREATED the Golden Age Ray "Happy" Terrill, where, when and how?

Also, Captain Marvel and the Green Lanterns appeared in **Action Comics**. Any chance you know which issues?

*The Golden Age Ray was one of the Quality super-heroes, Quality being a company best remembered for **Blackhawk**, Uncle Sam (featuring in **National Comics**) and Doll Man (in **Feature Comics**, all three being created by Will Eisner. Before being bought by DC, the company built up quite a stable of super-folks, including Doll Man, Midnight (a Spirit clone by Jack Cole), Eisner's John Law, Black Condor, The Clock, The Yankee Eagle, The Human Bomb and... Phantom Lady.*

*Most of them were revived by DC for its 15 issue (1976-1978) run of **Freedom Fighters**.*

*The Ray (who also appeared in the DC revival) first appeared in Quality's **Smash Comics** #14 [1940].*

Another product of the Will Eisner/Jerry Iger studio, The Ray was created by the superb artist Lou Fine.

*The character appeared in **Smash Comics** until issue #40 with Fine drawing the stories up to issue #20.*

*The Ray's origin was retold in **Freedom Fighters** #11.*

The current versoion of the Ray first appeared in 1992 in a six-issue mini-series. Written by Jack C. Harris and inked by Art Nichols, it was drawn by Joe Quesada, his first major series and featured the original Ray in most issues.

*As for your second question, if it's **Action Comics Weekly** you mean, Green Lantern appeared in #601-635 and #642 and Captain Marvel #623-626.*

Olsen the Sphinx?

Richard J. Smith, 26 Manchester Rd, Sheffield

I REMEMBER a Superman comic which featured on the cover the Sphinx, but with Jimmy Olsen's face — when and what comic was this?

*This one's really annoying us. We can visualise the cover, probably an old **Action Comics**, where the Olsen Sphinx iz zapping Superman with eye beams, but it's now annoying us as much as you that we can't locate it. Anybody care to put us all out of our misery?*

ANSWER UPDATES
or... New As for old Qs

Caniff revealed

Chris Law, 2 Ashley Walk, Mill Hill, London NW7 1DU

THE character "Lace" who was referred to in the recent *Q&A* was the star of the strip *Male Call* that ran in various army newspapers (and possibly others - a total of 3000 publications by the end of the war).

Male Call started life as a special forces version of the **Terry & the Pirates** strip that Milton Caniff produced from 20/10/1934

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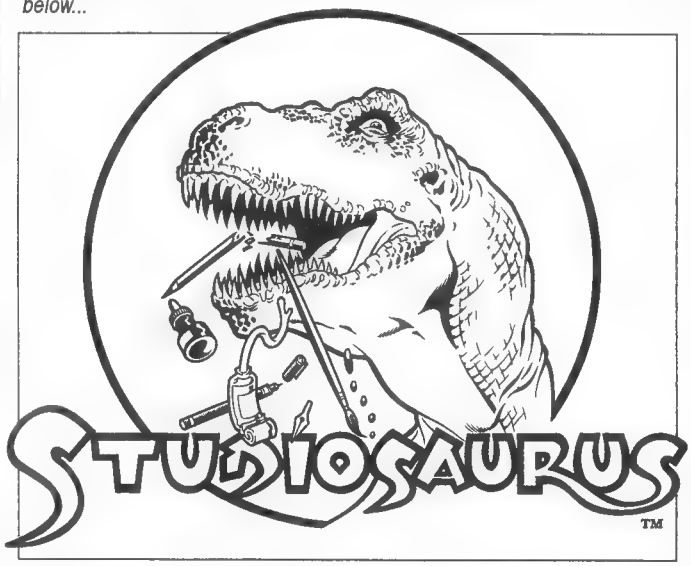
What's a Studiosaurus?

Nick Thornton, Alfold, near Cranleigh, Surrey

I've recently seen mention of Studiosaurus in **Comics International**: Once in connection with Karl Kesel and once in a piece about Terry Dodson. Can you tell me what Studiosaurus is?

Not only can we tell you (while breathing a deep sigh of relief for being able to find the answer to this one!) but we can even unveil their corporate logo below...



*As luck would have it, we'd been in contact with another Studiosaurus member, Aaron Lopresti about their **C.H.I.X.** project [CI #88]. So we were ideally placed to get him to answer your question. Take it away, Aaron...*

The studio was formed in June of 1995. Gary Martin told me that Terry Dodson and Matt Haley were thinking of putting a studio together. At that time, my wife was urging me to get out of the house once in awhile and a studio might not be a bad idea.

I didn't want to wait on Terry and Matt, besides I wasn't sure if they would invite me to join their studio anyway. So I jumped the gun and called Gary, Terry, and Rachel [Dodson] and told them I was forming a studio and asked them if they wanted to join me. Terry then called Matt and Tom [Simmons], who were sharing space at the time, to find out if they were interested.

I then called Ron Randall and Randy Emberlin and, much to my surprise, they were both interested. Suddenly we were on the verge of forming a mega-studio!

I found a space that could house us all and we were set. Matt and Tom were unable to join at the beginning but we held their spots. We had a big open house party in July of '95. Matt and Tom officially joined at that time.

The name for the studio was derived at our first official studio meeting. We all sat around and came up with stupid names for about an hour until Terry sheepishly said, "How about Studiosaurus?" Everyone instantly loved it and we chastised Terry for not speaking up sooner.

I drew the logo *[shown above]*, Terry did the lettering for it and Gary inked the whole thing.

But **C.H.I.X.** is not the first studio project. We also have a limited edition Pin-Up Portfolio and full color T-Shirts with the studio logo available. And hopefully, more stuff to come. Here is a current list of our Studio members and what they're working on:

TERRY DODSON is the new penciler on **Generation X** for Marvel and is also working on a Batgirl story for **Legends of the DC Universe**.

RACHEL DODSON recently inked Terry's **X-Man Special** and my **DeadPool** Minus 1 issue.

KARL KESEL is now back writing **Superboy** and still scripting **Adventures of Superman**.

MATT HALEY just finished drawing **Joker** (Tangent) for DC and is currently working on a **Supergirl/Batgirl** Elseworlds book.

RANDY EMBERLIN is inking **Ghost** for Dark Horse.

GARY MARTIN is inking a **StarWars X-Wing Rogue Squadron** mini-series for Dark Horse and his book **The Art of Comic Book Inking** just came out.

RON RANDALL is pencilling a **Star Wars** mini-series for Dark Horse.

TOM SIMMONS is finishing up inking a 12 issue run on DC's **Xero** and is inking Haley's **Supergirl/Batgirl**.

We also consider Adam Warren and Hilary Barta satellite members for their contributions to various studio projects. We have two "junior associates" Anne Timmons and Matt Clark, who are both pencilers just breaking into the business!

to 29/12/1946.

However, the existing customer base for the Terry strip were unhappy at the idea of a separate version of the strip appearing in rival publications hence the change of name. The lead character (Lace) is essentially a version of the Dragon Lady character in Terry.

Caniff left the Terry strip after the war to create *Steve Canyon*, a strip that he would own and control as opposed to the syndicate. The *Steve Canyon* strip started on 13/1/1947 and ran well into the 1980s (Terry continued under Frank Robbins hand).

Prior to the Terry and Steve strips, Caniff worked on the *Dickie Dare* adventure strip between July 1933 and September 1934, and the *Gay Thirties* (a single panel gag strip circa 1933).

I cannot say whether or not Caniff was personally responsible for the painting on the aircraft mentioned (unlikely I suggest) but the Terry, Steve and Male Call strips all featured the US military strongly and the artist was proud of his links with the armed forces. Examples of his army work include the **1947 Silver Wings USAF** benefit book and War Bond Posters ("never take your foot off a rattlesnake's neck").

He also contributed special drawings to various army reunions and readers of his strips were regularly reminded that they should remember Veterans Day and the sacrifices made by the forces during the war.

Caniff is regarded as one of the all time greats ranking with Roy Crane, Carl Barks, Jack Kirby and Will Eisner. His realistic style and shading techniques have influenced a generation of artists.

History of Fleetway

Steve Holland, Lexden Road Colchester, Essex

RE: Fleetway history: the Amalgamated Press was founded in 1901 by Alfred Harmsworth, whose various publishing ventures were thriving at the time: he'd just launched the **Daily Mail** and the **Evening News** was making a packet (£50,000 a year, equivalent to about £2.5million now). Harmsworth had a successful line in educational and literary periodicals and partworks which were published by various companies he owned such as Harmsworth Brothers (original publishers of **Comic Cuts**) and Answers Ltd. and it was to bring these periodicals together that the Amalgamated Press was founded.

The company moved to Fleetway House in 1912, although the AP name was used until 1959. Cecil King bought a controlling interest in AP in February, but before any major changes could occur, a printers strike took most of the AP periodicals off the shelves between June and August. When they returned, some did not survive long, and as titles merged (the **Sun** with **Lion**, **The Comet** with **Tiger**) so the banner changed to Fleetway Publications. The IPC byline arrived in January 1969. The current Fleetway Editions banner was introduced when Fleetway Publications was merged with London Editions in 1991.

An addenda to the *Arena* story from **The Crunch**, Mark Sabor's adventures continued as *Sabor's Army* in **Victor** #451-466 (14 May-27 August, 1983), still drawn by Enrique Alcatena, whose exquisite work was the reason I so desperately wanted to write for the Starblazer pocket library series, another unsung series from DCT; there were all sorts of interesting things tucked away, like issues drawn by Mike McMahon, Cam Kennedy and many unknown South American talents like Saichann (who, I think, later did some work for Continuity).

More than Mortal

*SERIES inker Walden Wong has provided CI with an answer to Alistair Burge's question [Q&A, CI #89] about the rarity of the limited cover to Liar Comics' **More than Mortal** #1:*

Walden Wong
San Francisco, California, USA

THERE were three covers for **More Than Mortal** #1: regular, variant (one in every four) and limited.

The print run for the latter was limited to 5,000 copies and offered as an incentive to retailers who ordered **More Than Mortal** #2. For every 15 copies of #2 ordered, they would get one copy. Of the 5,000 copies printed, around 2,000 were signed by Sharon Scott (writer), Steve Firchow (penciller/colourist) and me (inker). That was an extra bonus that were given out randomly. Not a lot of people know about this (even some of the retailers).

I understand that the limited cover is now sold out.

Issue #2 also had three covers: regular, an exclusive cover available only through The Comic Zone [Richfield, Minnesota] and the European Tour Edition (which were only sold in Europe during the tour). This one – I would imagine – would be harder to get.

The recently published issue #3 has only the one cover that I know of: by Marc Silvestri.

For issue #4 [scheduled for March] there's going to be the regular cover and a Randy Queen variant (one in every four).

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Key to abbreviations used:

w/s	= wholesale available	CoBRA	= Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme
dis	= bulk discount terms	cc	= major credit cards accepted
cat	= phone/write for catalogue	▮▮▮	= send stamped, self-addressed envelope with your enquiry
s-cat	= sae for catalogue		
s-wants	= sae with wants lists		

GOLDEN AGE TITLES

Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945 but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics

■ **Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 0181 446 3464

■ **Incognito**, 21 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 01622-683642

■ **Silver Acre Comics**, PO Box 114, Chester CH 4WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244-300 165

■ **Vault Comics**, PO Box 257, South Norwood, London SE25 6JN (wants cc cat) 0181 771 8278

SILVER AGE TITLES

*Generally deemed to commence in 1955 with DC Comics' hero rebirth through **Detective 225** (introducing the Martian Manhunter) and **Showcase 4** (introducing the new Flash), herein covering up to late 1960s.*

■ **Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 0181 446 3464

■ **Cosmic Comics**, PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, CoBRA, cc)

■ **Incognito**, 21 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 01622-683642

■ **Just Comics**, 2 Crossmead Avenue, Greenford, Middx UB6 9TY (cat-31p, CoBRA)

■ **Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0171-836 5630

■ **Quicksilver Comics**, 9 George St., Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 9PB (dis, s-cat, wants, CoBRA) 01924 315143

■ **Silver Acre Comics**, PO Box 114, Chester CH 4WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 300 165

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POST-SILVER AGE

Comics from the 1970s to date: Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum Age-Gimmick Age-Image Age. Historians will doubtless eventually decide on a name.

■ **Comics Warehouse**, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 850351

■ **Cosmic Comics**, PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, cc, CoBRA)

■ **Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0171-836 5630

HOT COMICS

Current or key titles, usually first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble.

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair St, Lime St, Bedford MK40 1NH (cat, s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 01234 365522

■ **Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0171-836 5630

ADVANCE IMPORTS

US comics are not in newsagents, except for most DCs and some Marvels, shipped seafreight. The following offer air-shipped copies from all major publishers.

■ **ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns St, Colchester, Essex CO2 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 01206 561912

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG (s-cat cc) 0171 497 2150

■ **Gosh! Strips by Mail**, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 0171 636 1011

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 0171 485 9320

■ **Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0171-836 5630

■ **Peachy-Keen Mail Order**, 88 High Street, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds SG19 2EJ (s-cat, CoBRA, wants) 01767 631384

■ **Red Hot Comics**, The Warehouse, Block D Unit 7, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH (CoBRA, s-wants, sae, dis) ph/fax: 0141-630 0049

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants) 01743 365192

LIMITED EDITIONS

Many high-profile mini-series and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions (ash).

■ **Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n) 0181-446 3464

OLD BRITISH TITLES

The popularity of old British comics continues to increase as more dealers expand into this area. The following specialise in such titles.

■ **Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 0181 446 3464

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order**, 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, cat, cc) 0181-659 9714

■ **Ken Harman Old Comics & Pulps** (wants; call for details) 0181 771 8756

■ **Weird Fantasy**, 19 Decoy Road, Ormesby, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 3LG (s-cat, s-wants, comics/annuals specialist)

TRADING CARDS

An increasing number of dealers carry a wide range of comics-related trading cards and their peripherals (files, folders, etc).

■ **Beyond Comics & Books**, 76 Harlescott Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3BZ (s-cat, s-wants, sae, CoBRA) tel/fax 0171 564 4213

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair St, Lime St, Bedford MK40 1NH (cat, s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 01234 365522

■ **Discount Trading Cards**, 3 Waterford Ave, Romiley, Stockport SK6 4HL (w/s dis cat, wants CoBRA member) e-mail Cardguys@compuserve.com tel/fax: 0161 427 1867

■ **MTCC Trading Cards**, c/o In Retrospect, 107-109 Orpington High St, Orpington, Kent BR6 0LG. (w/s dis s-wants cc) 01689 835700

■ **Next Millennium**, 14 Newark Way Hendon London NW4 4JL (wants) 0181-203 0014

■ **Nightmares Card Collectables**, The Batcave, 71 Mill Lane, Doncaster DN6 8PE (s-wants s-cat dis) 01302 727391/0191 2401811

MERCHANDISE

Comics and film/tv-related t-shirts, posters, video games, video films, badges, toys, etc.

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair St, Lime St, Bedford MK40 1NH (cat, s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 01234 365522

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■ **Off World: The Sci-Fi Store**, Unit 20, Romford Shopping Halls, Market Place, Romford, Essex RM1 3AT. (specialists in Trek, Star Wars & s-f collectables) 01708 765633

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish St, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants) 01743 365192

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Acid-free protection for valuable comics. Backing boards, bags, storage boxes, etc.

■ **Incognito**, 21 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 01622-683642

■ **Just Comics**, 2 Crossmead Avenue, Greenford, Middx UB6 9TY (wholesale only, Collectorline™ distributor) 0181 578 1308

■ **Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, CoBRA, cc) 0171-836 5630

ART & REFERENCE

Comics history reference magazines & books (ref) plus art books (art) and newspaper strip compilations (strip).

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order**, 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, ref, art, strip, cat, cc) 0181-659 9714

MANGA TITLES

English language translations and Japanese-style American comics.

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair St, Lime St, Bedford MK40 1NH (cat, s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 01234 365522

■ **United Publications**, 85 Croydon Road, Keston, Kent BR2 8HU Tel: 0181 325 9507. Web page: www.tupin.demon.co.uk (ind, back, cat, wants, cc)

ALTERNATIVE & BIOG

The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life titles (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar, etc)

■ **Gosh! Strips by Mail**, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 0171 636 1011

■ **Knockabout Comics**, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 0181 969 2945 (fax: 0181 968 7614)

■ **Page 45**, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. 0115 9508045

ORIGINAL ART

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available.

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, cat, cc) 0181-659 9714

COMICS AUCTIONS

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions can provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their comics.

■ **Comic Book Postal Auctions Limited**, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 0171 424 0007

■ **Vault Comic Auctions**, PO Box 257, South Norwood, London SE25 6JN (cc, cat) 0181 771 8278

EVENTS ORGANISERS

The following companies organise comics, card and fantasy film/tv events across Britain. Individual locations detailed in brackets.

■ **M&M Marts**, 58 Canada Rd, Heath, Cardiff CF4 3BY (Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester, Swindon, Weymouth) 0181 367 5102

■ **Made in Heaven**, 19 Broughton Rd, Biggar ML12 6AN (Memorabilia shows: NEC Brimingham and Glasgow) 01899 221622

■ **Showmasters International**, 81 Raglan Ave., Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 8DD (Cheshunt, London, Maidstone, Milton Keynes) http://www.starweb.co.uk 01992 637135

■ **Zephyr Marts**, PO Box 6, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 4SJ (Coventry, Liverpool, London) http://www.ntof.demon.co.uk/comicmart/index.html 0151 638 1502

AMERICAN COMICS DISTRIBUTORS

Anybody considering opening a comics specialist shop can obtain further information about the supply of titles from the following who air-freight bulk copies of North American comics and related items into Britain on a weekly basis:

■ **Diamond Comic Distributors**, Unit 1, Empson St, London E3 3LT (US & European comics, cards and related items) 0171 538 8300

■ **Red Route Distribution**, Unit 24, 10 Acklam Rd., London W10 5QZ (US & European comics/graphic novels, backlist specialists) 0181 960 5855

In addition, many DC and selected Marvel titles are available to newstrade outlets from national UK distributors, who ship sea-freight from America.

■ **IPC Market Force** (selected Marvel US standard format titles only) 0171 261 5555

■ **Portman Distribution** (selected range of DC comics only)

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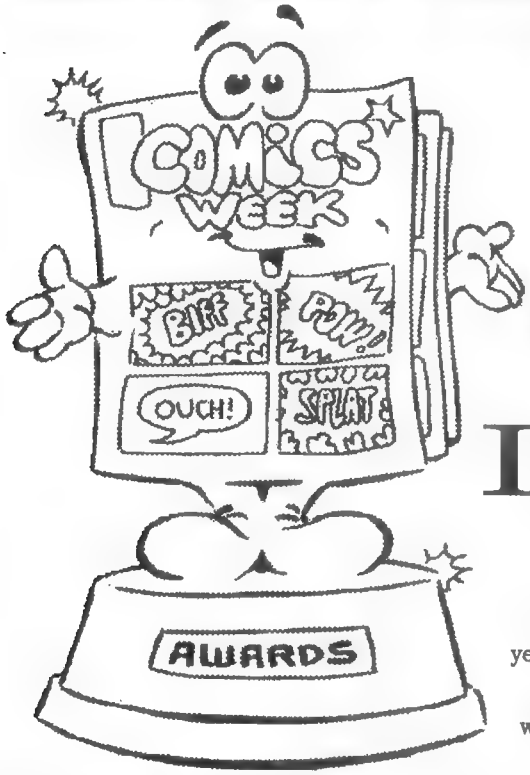


The 2nd National Comics Awards

IN 1997, at a star studded ceremony hosted by Jonathan Ross and Paul Gambaccini, truckloads of glittering prizes were carried off by Preacher, with Kingdom Come giving it a run for its money, top awards going to Batman, Hitman, 2000AD, Strangehaven, Octobriana and Dan Dare, and the coveted trophy for Best British Comic Ever being raised aloft by The Beano. This year we raise the stakes, in a good cause, with a Penny Vote to find The Best Comic In The World . . Ever!, we squeeze more fans into the Awards Ceremony than before with the new low attendance price of just five quid (£4.50 in advance), and best of all we promise, yes *promise*, that the recipients of this year's National Comics Awards trophies (or, er, Jimmies) won't get silver paint all over them! The Awards will be presented at The Weston Theatre, UMIST, Manchester on the night of Saturday March 21st 1998 (the weekend of UKCAC, which takes place across the road). Places are limited so don't forget to book your seat when you vote (see foot of page). And remember, it's your vote that counts.

Best Writer

Sponsored by Comics Warehouse

Best Artist

Sponsored by Comics Warehouse

The Comic Book Postal Auctions Award for Best Comic (British)

Sponsored by Comic Book Postal Auctions

The Comics International Award for Best Comic (International)

Sponsored by Comics International

The SFX Award for Best Character

Sponsored by SFX magazine

The SFX Award for New Comic of 1997 (British)

Sponsored by SFX magazine

New Comic of 1997 (International)

Sponsored by Comics International

The Wiltshire (Bristol) Award for Best Self Published/Independent

Sponsored by Wiltshire (Bristol) Printers

Most Missed Character, Strip or Comic

Sponsor to be confirmed

The Diamond Star System Award for Best comic based Film/TV

Sponsored by Diamond Comic Distributors

The Avon Imaging Award for Best Supporting Character

Sponsored by Avon Imaging

Best Individual Story of 1997

Sponsored by Tripwire magazine

The Diamond PREVIEWS Award for Best Specialist Comics Publication

Sponsored by Diamond Comic Distributors

Best Newspaper Strip

Sponsor to be confirmed

The Cartoon Art Trust presentation of the Roll Of Honour (for outstanding achievement)

Presented by The Cartoon Art Trust

SPECIAL CATEGORY

The Best Comic In The World . . . Ever! - Penny Vote.

For the benefit of ChildLine. Registered Charity No 1003758 Each vote you register costs 50p. The minimum number of votes is four (ie £2's worth). All money goes straight to the charity - make cheques or postal orders payable to ChildLine. Ballot-stuffing is actively encouraged, and may the best charity win!

My choice of **Best Comic In The World . . . Ever!** is _____

I wish to register _____ votes @ 50p each. I enclose a cheque/PO for the total of _____ (made payable to **ChildLine**) Votes must be received by March 16 1998.

Name _____

Send your completed ballot form, and any payment for the Best Comic In The World Penny Vote (made payable to ChildLine only) or for tickets (made payable to National Comics Awards) to National Comics Awards, PO Box 48, Clevedon, Bristol BS21 7LQ. All votes to be received by March 16th 1998.

BE THERE THEN

HEY - I'VE JUST GOT TO BE THERE! I simply must attend the National Comics Awards in Manchester on Saturday March 21st. Please send me _____ tickets at the reduced advance price of £4.50 each (yes, I know they'll be five quid on the door). I enclose a cheque/p.o. (payable to National Comics Awards) for the total of £_____

Name _____

Address _____

Comics Economics

Top 100 US comic book sales for January 1998

An Uncanny knack for success

George Perez riding high with the hot shots

The surge for the top continues...

No variants, no top spot

Still showing enormous stamina

Poor trade response for a hot property

No lack of faith in Rob's new babe

Death becomes them! Bad Girls still bucking the trend

Busiek continues to impress with his metropolitan tales

An X-Men comic debuting at 85th?

Top 100 breakthrough for Smith's Bone

Ennis: Preaching to the perverted?

No team like an old team

Rank	Prior	Title & Price (where other than $1.95 or $1.99)	Publisher
1	(5)	**Uncanny X-Men #353**	Marvel
2	(6)	**X-Men #73**	Marvel
3	(2)	**Avengers #2**	Marvel
4	(7)	**Spawn #70**	Image
5	(3)	**Iron Man #2**	Marvel
6	(4)	**Fantastic Four #3**	Marvel
7	(9)	**Wolverine #122**	Marvel
8	(10)	**JLA #16**	DC
9	(8)	**Captain America #3**	Marvel
10	(re)	**Witchblade #20 ($2.50)**	Image
11	(1)	The Darkness #12 ($2.95)	Image
12	(11)	Curse of Spawn #17	Image
13	(12)	Generation X #36	Marvel
14	(13)	JLA: Year One #3	DC
15	(20)	X-Force #75	Marvel
16	(re)	X-Men Unlimited #18 ($2.99)	Marvel
17	(=)	X-Man #36	Marvel
18	(14)	JLA: Paradise Lost #3	DC
19	(21)	X-Factor #143	Marvel
20	(22)	Cable #52	Marvel
21	(26)	Amazing Spider-Man #432	Marvel
22	(23)	The Incredible Hulk #462	Marvel
23	(re)	Ascension #4 ($2.95)	Image
24	(35)	Spider-Man #89	Marvel
25	(36)	Spectacular Spider-Man #255	Marvel
26	(41)	Sensational Spider-Man 25 (2.99)	Mrvl
27	(34)	Excalibur #118	Marvel
28	(=)	Superman #133	DC
29	(re)	Action Comics #742	DC
30	(N)	Lady Death #1 ($2.95)	Chaos*
31	(37)	Superman: Man of Steel #77	DC
32	(=)	Creech #3	Image
33	(39)	Batman #552	DC
34	(49)	Thunderbolts #12	Marvel
35	(40)	Alpha Flight #8	Marvel
36	(re)	Superman: Man of Tomorrow #10	DC
37	(48)	Green Lantern #96	DC
38	(42)	Deadpool #14	Marvel
39	(55)	The Flash #135	DC
40	(re)	Astro City ½ ($2.50)	Image
41	(47)	Detective Comics #719	DC
42	(43)	Unlimited Access #4 ($2.99)	Marvel
43	(52)	Preacher #35 ($2.50)	DC/Vertigo
44	(N)	Batman: Bane of the Demon #1	DC
45	(=)	Bishop: XSE #3 ($2.50)	Marvel
46	(53)	Nightwing #18	DC
47	(56)	The Tenth #5 ($2.50)	Image
48	(60)	Batman: Legends/Dk Knight 104	DC
49	(N)	Green Lantern/Sentinel: Heart of Darkness #1	DC
50	(75)	WildCORE #3 ($2.50)	Image
51	(N)	Preacher: One Man's War ($5.95)	DC/V
52	(62)	Supergirl #19	DC
53	(51)	S/Wars Crimson Empire 2 (2.95)	DHorse
54	(71)	Wonder Woman #131	DC
55	(68)	Batman: Shadow of the Bat #72	DC
56	(46)	Legends of the DC Universe #2	DC
57	(59)	Xena Warrior Princess 3 ($2.95)	Topps
58	(61)	Voodoo #3 ($2.50)	Image
59	(70)	The X-Files #38 ($2.95)	Topps
60	(78)	Catwoman #55	DC
61	(69)	Gen[13] Bootleg #15 ($2.50)	Image
62	(N)	Darkchylde Swimsuit ($2.95)	Image
63	(74)	Robin #51	DC
64	(57)	Xena: Dragon's Teeth 2 ($2.95)	Topps
65	(82)	Ka-Zar #11	Marvel
66	(N)	Babylon 5: In Valen's Name #1	DC
67	(106)	What If..? #106	Marvel
68	(re)	Green Arrow #130 ($2.50)	DC
69	(N)	Scarlet Crush #1 ($2.50)	Awesome
70	(93)	Starman #40 ($2.25)	DC
71	(87)	Maverick #7	Marvel
72	(re)	WildC.A.T.S #45 ($2.50)	Image
73	(92)	Heroes For Hire #9	Marvel
74	(re)	Coven #5 ($2.50)	Awesome
75	(94)	Stardust #4 ($5.95)	DC/V
76	(95)	Mage: Hero Defined #7 ($2.50)	Image
77	(N)	Wonder Woman Secret Files (4.95)	DC
78	(98)	Elektra #16	Marvel
79	(98)	Teen Titans #18	DC
80	(100)	Arcanum #8 ($2.50)	Image
81	(N)	S/Wars X-Wing Rogue Squadron: Family Ties #1 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
82	(112)	DV8 #15 ($2.50)	Image
83	(101)	Silver Surfer #137	Marvel
84	(89)	Werewolf By Night #2 ($2.99)	Marvel
85	(N)	X-Men: Manga #1 ($2.99)	Marvel
86	(109)	Aquaman #42	DC
87	(113)	Azrael #38	DC
88	(91)	Quicksilver #5	Marvel
89	(110)	Daredevil #373	Marvel
90	(108)	X-Files: Ground Zero #3 ($2.95)	Topps
91	(86)	Chase #2 ($2.50)	DC
92	(117)	Hitman #24 ($2.25)	DC
93	(115)	Shi: The Series #6 ($2.95)	Crusade*
94	(120)	Power of Shazam #36	DC
95	(re)	Bone #31 ($2.95)	Cartoon Books*
96	(126)	Shi: Heaven & Earth #4 ($2.95)	Crusade*
97	(114)	Marvel Team-Up #7	Marvel
98	(122)	Superboy #49	DC
99	(123)	Legion of Super-Heroes #102	DC
100	(105)	Moon Knight #3 ($2.50)	Marvel

(N) = New entry (re) = re-entry or infrequent (=) non-mover from previous month

Next 50 titles: January 1998

(Titles generally selling below 25,000)

101	(127)	Savage Dragon #45 ($2.50)	Image
102	(130)	The Dreaming #22 ($2.50)	DC/Vertigo
103	(N)	C.H.I.X #1 ($2.95)	Image
104	(129)	Legionnaires #58 ($2.25)	DC
105	(re)	Wetworks #36 ($2.50)	Image
106	(N)	Chronos #1 ($2.50)	DC
107	(128)	Impulse #35	DC
108	(N)	DV8 Annual #1 ($2.95)	Image
109	(136)	Vampirella #3 ($2.95)	Harris
110	(139)	Batman Adventures: Lost Years 3	DC
111	(138)	Books of Magic #46 ($2.50)	DC
112	(N)	Conan: Lord/Spiders #1 ($2.50)	Marvel
113	(121)	Journey into Mystery #518	Marvel
114	(137)	The Kents #8 ($2.50)	DC
115	(103)	Fighting American: Rules of the Game #2 ($2.50)	Awesome
116	(125)	Legends of the Legion #2 ($2.25)	DC
117	(N)	Groo #1 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
118	(147)	Strangers in Paradise Volume 3 #12 ($2.75)	Abstract Studios*
119	(143)	Martha Washington Saves the World #2 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
120	(N)	Star Trek: The Untold Tales #1	Marvel
121	(146)	Resurrection Man #11 ($2.50)	DC
122	(N)	Judgment Day Aftermath (3.50)	A/some
123	(N)	Star Trek: Splash Down #1	Marvel
124	(140)	Man-Thing #4 ($2.99)	Marvel
125	(re)	Jack Kirby's Fourth World #13	DC
126	(102)	Satana #3 ($2.99)	Marvel
127	(re)	Star Trek Unlimited #8 ($2.99)	Marvel
128	(149)	Evil Ernie: Destroyer #5 ($2.95)	Chaos*
129	(re)	Ghost Rider #94	Marvel
130	(re)	Adventures in the DC Universe #12	DC
131	(re)	Phantom Guard #4 ($2.50)	Image
132	(re)	Star Trek: Early Voyages #14	Marvel
133	(re)	Star Trek: S/fleet Academy #16	Marvel
134	(re)	Hellblazer #123 ($2.25)	DC/Vertigo
135	(N)	Sharky #1 ($2.50)	Image
136	(re)	Superman Adventures #17	DC
137	(re)	House of Secrets #17 ($2.50)	DC/Vertigo
138	(re)	Lobo #49 ($2.25)	DC
139	(re)	Aliens: Kidnapped #2 ($2.50)	DHorse
140	(re)	Superboy & the Ravers #19	DC
141	(re)	Sandman Mystery Theatre #60 ($2.50)	DC/Vertigo
142	(N)	Blade: Crescent City Blues ($3.50)	Mrvl
143	(re)	Transmetropolitan #7 ($2.50)	DC/Helix
144	(re)	Predator: Nemesis #2 ($2.95)	DHorse
145	(re)	Pantha #2 ($3.50)	Harris
146	(re)	Sovereign Seven #32	DC
147	(re)	Creeper #4 ($2.50)	DC
148	(re)	Ghost #33 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
149	(re)	The Tick: Big Blue Destiny #3 ($3.50)	New England Comics*
150	(N)	Oh My Goddesss: Ninja Master #1 ($2.95)	Dark Horse

*Publisher names followed by * indicates the title is not exclusively distributed by Diamond Comics Distributors*

Marvel Comics

The two core X-Men titles return to the top spots in what is a quiet month for all major publishers. Marvel's highest new entry is **X-Men Manga**, in at 85th!

Now that the Christmas holiday specials have been and gone, the chart takes on a more familiar appearance, with titles **Daredevil**, **Silver Surfer**, **What If..?** and **Marvel Team-Up** returning to Top 100 positions.

Most of the **X-Men** titles have moved back up the chart, with **Maverick** rising the highest (17 places to 71st). One time Top Ten regular, **X-Force**, celebrates its 75th issue, but can only rise to a high of 15th.

Marvel's second highest new entry is the latest **Conan** mini-series: **Conan the Barbarian and the Lord of the Spiders** (an obvious contender for longest title of the month). It debuts at 112th, while the revamped **Star Trek** imprint re-enters the Top 150.

It seems that the troubled *Strange Tales* imprint is struggling to find a market. **Werewolf By Night** #2 bucked the trend of second issues always disappearing from the Top 100 by moving up four places. But the warm-up for the new **Blade: The Vampire Killer** series, **Blade: Crescent City Blues** could only debut at 142nd. **Satana** #3 is listed but has been cancelled.

Top contender for the Marvel axe is **Marvel Adventures** which placed at a poor 205th.

DC Comics

DC ties with Marvel on 36% of the market share, a drop of 2% from last month, but as the company substantially reduced its new product this month, it isn't an unreasonable drop, especially with so many titles moving higher up the chart.

Aquaman (at 86th), **Azrael** (87th), **Hitman** (92nd), **Power of Shazam** (94th), **Superboy** (98th) and **The Legion of Super-Heroes** (99th) have all re-entered the Top 100. Only four DC titles fell this month; the two **JLA** mini-series and the second issues of **Legends of the DC Universe** and **Chase**.

Green Arrow has bludgeoned its way back into the Top 100, re-entering at 68th, a massive climb of nearly 100 places on last month! DC's highest new entry being **Batman: Bane of the Demon** in at 44th.

Top candidate for the DC axe is **Challengers of the Unknown** which placed at 185th. **Xero** (223rd) and **Scare Tactics** (241st) have both been cancelled already!

Top 100 publisher market share

Marvel Comics	36%
DC Comics	36%
Image Comics	16%
Topps Comics	4%
Awesome Entertainment	2%
Crusade Comics	2%
Dark Horse Comics	2%
Cartoon Books	1%
Chaos Comics	1%

Image Comics

No gimmicks, no **The Darkness** at number one! After the huge orders for issue #11, the next issue of Garth Ennis and Mal Coney's run on **The Darkness** falls out of the Top 10 to 11th, being upstaged by its sister title **Witchblade**, re-entering at 10th.

Spawn moves back up to the Top Five (up three to 4th), **Curse of Spawn** falls one to 12th and Greg Capullo's **The Creech** is a non-mover at 32nd. The McFarlane/Top Cow domination of the Top 50 is completed by Top Cow's **Ascension**, which re-entered at 23rd.

You have to look down to 40th for an Image comic not produced by either Todd McFarlane or Marc Silvestri's imprints: **Kurt Busiek's Astro City ½**. A reprint, this indicates the strong following the title has gained.

Image's highest new entry was Randy Queen's **Darkchylde Swimsuit Special** in at 62nd, the next highest being **C.H.I.X.** #1 in at 103rd.

Other publishers

Topps is up to 4% with **X-Files** and **Xena Warrior Princess** tie-ins, while Dark Horse, Crusade and Awesome all have 2%. **Bone** moves back into the Top 100 at 95th.

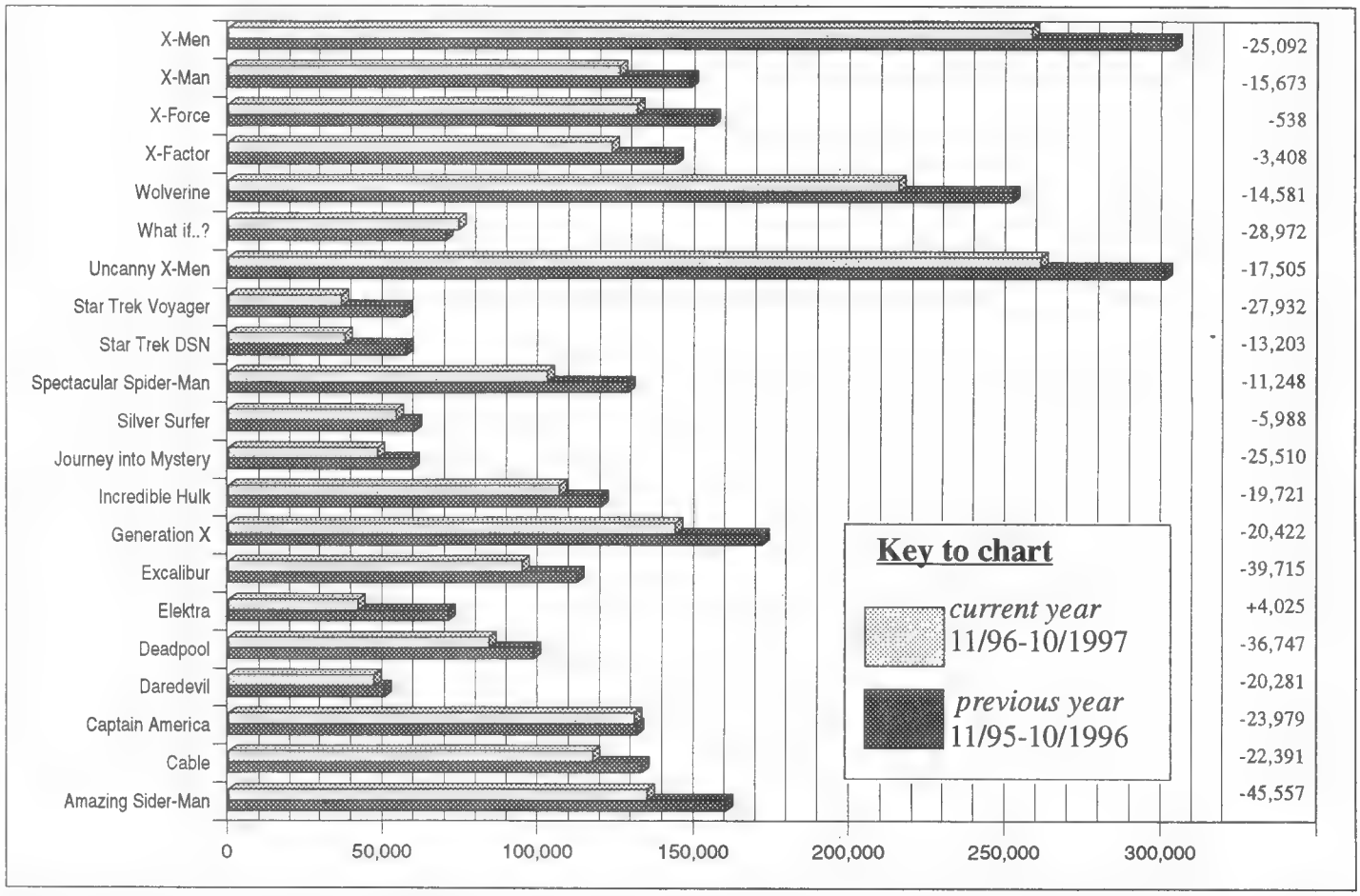
Notable first issue performances

WITH seemingly reckless abandon, publishers launch marginal new titles every month on the already overcrowded direct market. A recent report stated that only 25 titles had sales over 70,000 with the 100th placing title at less than 25,000. DC's smash hit, **JLA**, is in the 100,000+ range, while Vertigo's leader, **Preacher**, hovers around the 45,000 mark, more than double almost the rest of the Vertigo line. Image's **Spawn** maintains its 140,000+ sales while **Gen**^{13} has lost over 50,000 sales in the last year. Dark Horse's creator-owned leader, **Sin City**, is believed to be a constant 60,000 seller, almost three times the sales of **Madman**, while the rest of the company's titles outside of the **Star Wars** line hover in the 10,000 to 20,000 region. Acclaim titles are all below 10,000 except **X-O Manowar** in the low teens. Even indie favourite **Bone** appears to sell under 25,000, half of its peak a few years ago. However, it should be noted that **Bone**, along with many other independently published comics, is carried by smaller distributors, which can add as much as 20% more to the total sales. Here is a selection of this month's new contenders:

Lady Death #1	(30th)	Chaos	
Babylon 5: In Valen's Name #1	(66th)	DC	
Scarlet Crush #1	(69th)	Awesome	
X-Men Manga #1	(85th)	Marvel	
C.H.I.X. #1	(103rd)	Image	
Chronos #1	(106th)	DC	
Sergio Aragones Groo #1	(117th)	Dark Horse	
Judgment Day Aftermath #1	(122nd)	A/some	
Sharky #1	(135th)	Image	
Oni Double Feature #1	(161st)	Oni Press	
Kabuki: Dreams	(163rd)	Image	
Harbinger: Acts of God	(164th)	Acclaim	
Maxx 3-D #1 Edition	(177th)	Image	
Zombieworld: Dead End #1	(183rd)	Dk Horse	
Egon #1	(216th)	Dark Horse	
Shut Up and Die #1	(221st)	Image	
Piracy #1 (EC reprint)	(227th)	Gemstone	
Ms Fortune #1	(231st)	Image	

Marvel Comics sales figures: 1996-1997

EVERY YEAR, Marvel Comics publishes its statements of circulation, combining both direct market and newsstand sales on its titles. An obligation to retain US Postal Service mailing privileges, the figures are those Bible-point notes squeezed into the end of titles' letters columns. Every year, ***Comics International*** *saves you the trouble of taking notes to make the inevitable comparisons.*



Summary: *With the sole exception of* ***What If****, up 4,025 copies a month, every Marvel title lost sales between years, from* ***Captain America****, down only 538 a month, to* ***Uncanny X-Men****, down 39,715 copies a month*

THE COMICS slump continues, with Marvel's sales down approximately 15% against the average of the previous year.

The trend cuts across all titles, and of the 20 comics for which circulation figures were available at press time, 17 of these show significant sales drops of over 10,000 copies per issue. (Although Marvel currently publishes over 40 regular monthly titles, at filing time, about half of them had not been in publication for the requisite 13 months necessary to qualify for inclusion in the above chart).

Five million sales drop

Extended over a year, the combined monthly drop of 414,418 issues represents a staggering sales loss of close to five million books.

Assuming an average of selling price of $2.50 per title, this adds up to a yearly loss of about $12.5 million in revenue.

Even the stalwart X-titles (**Uncanny X-Men**, **X-Factor**, **X-Force**, **X-Man**, **X-Men**, **Cable**, **Excabilur Generation X** and **Wolverine**) show a combined monthly drop of almost 250,000, which translates to a sales loss of almost three million issues over the course of a year. But this is in line with the overall sales decrease of 15%, suggesting that, as far as the fans are concerned, these titles are no better or worse that any of the others.

People are not so much abandoning particular books, as they are giving up comics altogether. Only the variable **What if... registers** a slight increase in readership, and that on top of a relatively low sales base to begin with.

Alarming as they are in themselves, these figures merely continue to reflect the drastic sales slump begun several years earlier, as exemplified by two of Marvel's most high-profile creations. In 1992, during the peak of the comic boom years, **The Amazing Spider-Man** sold an average of 544,900 copies per issue.

Only one-in-four readers remain

Two years later, sales had fallen by almost 50%, and by 1997 they had fallen by 50% again. In other words, since 1992, a staggering 400,000 readers – or three out of every four – dropped **The Amazing Spider-Man**.

The sales figures for **The Incredible Hulk** tell much the same story. Sales dropped by roughly half between 1992 and 1994, and then by a third again, as sales of the most recent issue are about 35% of what they were five years ago in 1992.

700,000 ex X-readers

The most extraordinary drop of all, however, was registered by the **X-Men**, which suffered a plunge of over 700,000 during that same five year period.

Similarly, since 1992, **X-Force** sales have plummeted by over 600,000, **Uncanny X-Men** by over 470,000, **X-Factor** by 325,000, and **Wolverine** is down by over 200,000 copies per month.

Meanwhile, as Marvel struggles through its bankruptcy, there are no signs as of yet of the sales slump stabilising or reversing in the foreseeable future.

With other publishers (not obliged to publish their sales) reflect a similar slump through their positions in distributors' monthly charts not suddenly leaping ahead of Marvel, it can be seen that if not yet dead, then the US comics industry is certainly on its knees.

Last time, when newsstand all-time lows led key management personnel to believe comics would not survive the 1970s, the direct market came to the rescue.

What is the industry going to rely on this time?

10 CLASSIC STUFF ONLY. *Anything given a 10 is way up there with the greats of the last 100 years.*

9 EXCELLENT IN BOTH SCRIPT AND ART. *This is the top score you're likely to see.*

8 EXCELLENT AGAIN, BUT IN ONE AREA ONLY. *Even then, the other area (script or art) is great. Not very good, but great. Alternatively, a comic which is very, very good in plot, script and art.*

7 VERY VERY GOOD *in one area, but only average in the other.*
Alternatively, very good all around.

6 GOOD. *An enjoyable middle of the road read (a dangerous pursuit!). Not particularly exciting, but solid and without disappointments.*

5 AN AVERAGE COMIC. *No more, no less. Simply average.*
Alternatively, an OK title which is dragged down by script or art.

4 FAIR. *One you can happily live without.*

3 POOR. *Not worth the price of admission.*

2 ABSOLUTELY AWFUL. *Not worth reading... even if it was free!*

1 DISASTROUS. *A comic that should be accompanied by a government health warning.*

0 THE ABSOLUTE OPPOSITE OF A 10. *Something so bad, it's hard to imagine anything worse. However, a zero score is used sparingly... in case the next issue actually is worse!*

REVIEWS

*It is the intention of **Comics International** to help comics readers keep abreast of the entire range of titles currently available through direct sale specialist shops, good newsagents and mail order companies. Few retailers allow titles in stock to be read before choosing purchases; **Comics International**'s reviews are designed to counter this and draw readers' attention to comics they might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section should be of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they can only judge the quality of a new title after purchase.*

***Review codes:** General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

*Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with similar titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare **Bone** to **X-Men**, but review each within the context of its own genre.*

The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +> if there has been a notable improvement.

Reviews Editor: Sarah Bolesworth

Reviewing panel: Fabio Paulo Barbieri (FPB), Grant S Doig (GSD), Jon Edwards (JE), Tim Hayes (TH), Rol Hirst (RH), Adrian Kermode (AK), Skinny Melink (SM), Peter Phillips (PCP)

DARK HORSE

Age of Reptiles: The Hunt

by Delgado

This 152-page ($17.95) Eisner-award nominated collection is a disappointing sequel to **Tribal Warfare**, mainly due to James Sinclair's over-slick, soulless computer colours. Delgado's less detailed artwork here might have benefitted from more naturalistic colouring. (JE) **6**

Appleseed Book 4: Promethean Balance

by Shirow; Manga

The story of Deunan and her cyborg companions – SWAT officers trying to maintain the law in an uneasy utopian future. The plot is nonsense, but this 218-page book is a watershed in dynamic visual storytelling from the Jack Kirby of Japanese comics. (JE) **8**

Hellboy Christmas Special

by Mignola w/Gianni w/Purcell

Hellboy comics can be relied upon for their first-rate artwork, and this is no exception: the three artists' contributions are memorable in different ways. But all the stories are flawed, mainly due to a lack of Christmas-related content. (FPB) **6**

Oh My Goddess! You're So Bad

by Fujishama

<+> Fujishama is on top form with this wonderful comedy of errors which builds on last issue's surprise ending and introduces an important character development. The handling of the feminine hygiene issue alone is worth the cover price, but Urd's comeuppance and the Skuld-Keichi double act are a lovely bonus. (AK) **7**

DC COMICS

Batgirl Adventures 1

by Dini & Burchett

When Poison Ivy is captured by terrorists, Harley Quinn turns to Batgirl for help. Humour, pathos and – surprisingly – some rather adult themes, particularly in Harley's relationship. (AK) **9**

Challengers of the Unknown 13

by Grant & Thompson + Reinhold

<+> Marlon takes centre stage in a tense tale of retribution, redemption and Celtic demons, but as always it is the character development not the supernatural elements that make this title so good..This time he saves the woman he loves only for her to leave him. (AK) **7**

Chase 1

by Johnson & Williams III + Gray

A teenage pyrotechnic goes on the rampage as Cameron Chase arrives for her first day at the department of extranormal operations. A spin on the *X-Files*, the series assumes its own identity with an intriguing character, sound storytelling and visuals to die for. (PCP) **9**

The Creeper 3

by Kaminski & Martinbrough + Buscema

<+> Things finally start making sense as Kaminski rewrites the Creeper's origin, making him more than just an athletic do-gooder with a scary laugh. The character is unlikely to gain any new readers from this title, however – a shame since it is well crafted and has lots of potential. (AK) **7**

DV8 14

by Heisler & Raney + Elliot

<+ + +> Heisler has either been inspired by Raney and Elliott's outstanding art or he is just more comfortable with espionage, because he produces an exciting, action-packed story as the team's first mission for International Operations goes seriously wrong when Threshold throws a wobbly. A vast improvement. (AK) **7**

Gog 1

by Waid & Ordway + Janke

DC gives **Kingdom Come** a backgrounder involving those two deadly clichés, religious obsession and the time-travel paradox. The story takes a swing into the macabre at the end with Superman's so-called final fate, but the whole thing raises only a little interest and a whole heap of questions – all of which are uncalled for. (TH) **4**

The origin of Gog, the arch-nemesis from the series **Kingdom Come**, ponders over whether that story's apocalyptic vision of a DC universe's future will come to fruition. Jerry Ordway is a fine illustrator whose futuristic visuals are hopelessly dated. (JE) **7**

Flash 133

by Morrison + Millar & Ryan + Nyberg

<+ -> More imaginative superhero writing as the Mirror Master attacks Wally and Linda and flips their world around. Brimming with ideas, this is reminiscent of Grant Morrison's first DC work on early **Animal Man**. (RH) **8**

Inferno 4

by Immonen & Von Grawbadger

<+ -> The climax of this story is a dodgy mixture of New Age subjectivism and right-wing vindictiveness: it is okay to kill your enemies if you feel okay about it. But it has good writing, very sound art and for once real, well-observed female anatomy. A good comic with an immoral message. (FPB) **6**

Invisibles 12

by Morrison & Jiminez + Stokes; Vertigo

<+ -> Nice to see the team working *as* a team again — minus Boy, who has gone over to the dark side, a might-have-been there all along. Again this is top-drawer horror, but it is a shame Phil Jiminez did not do all the pencils. (RH) **8**

<+ -> Another stylishly drawn slice of paranoia in which memorably nighmarish confusion

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almost obscures the sound of the writer laughing... Plot resolution is a light year away, but as Grant Morrison's ideas become ever more gleefully deranged the book's clinical sadism becomes ever more addictive. (TH) **7**

JLA: Year One 2

by Waid & Augustyn + Kitson

<+> A fun story with gorgeous art and some nice writing as the classic JLA get personalities – they were way too straight and serious in the original Silver Age comics. Flash and Green Lantern come across too much like the Beetle and Booster combo from Fiffen's late Eighties League, though. (AK) **7**

JLA 14

by Morrison & Porter + Dell

<-> Grant Morrison energises the whole DC Universe, with every character revved up and Batman given enough science-fiction intensity to make Denny O'Neil's nose bleed. But the plot is now indigestible, the art misses action beats and Darkseid looks like a Mexican wrestler. (TH) **5**

Legends of the DC Universe 1

by Robinson & Semeiks + Neary

An untold tale from Superman's past which, although competently written and with Val Semeiks' usual solid artwork, seems a somewhat ordinary sort of start for the book that is meant to unite DC's top characters and creators. (RH) **6**

Legends of the Legion 1

by Kitson + Peyer & Nauck + Strucker

Ultra-Boy's origin retold with more elements and Nauck's Manpaesque artwork as a bonus. (PCP) **8**

Legion of Super-Heroes: Secret Files

by Peyer + McCraw & Boyd

The latest of the *Secret Files* focuses on the Legion. Unfortunately, it is mostly pin-up pages and part-retelling of the team's origin. Good work all round, but there is little substance to the whole. (GSD) **5**

Legion of Super-Heroes 100

by Peyer + McCraw + Levitz & Moder + Aucoin + Boyd

<+> At long last the Legion comes home in the first tale of this 96-page, inventive and well-written anniversary issue. Ferro comes to terms with his new life in the 30th century and the seeds are sown for a plot involving M'Onel and Andromeda. An exceptional issue that justifies its $5.95 price-tag. The only gripe is the work of new penciller Jason Armstrong, whose work is at best average. (GSD) **8**

The Life Story of the Flash

by Waid + Augustyn & Kane + Staton + Palmer

Ostensibly written by Iris Allen, this is a high-priced and largely disappointing retelling of key moments in the life of the second generation Flash. A mixture of text and comic art, ideal for newcomers but nothing new for those there at ground zero; it is little more than a glorified fact file. (AK) **6**

Preacher: Cassidy – Blood & Whiskey

by Ennis & Dillon; Vertigo

Garth Ennis's slight, clichéd and uninspired study of an uneven character never quite gets off the ground. The book is barely saved by Steve Dillon's reader-friendly art, nicely embellished here by James Sinclair's subdued shades. But it does not warrant the pricey format ($5.95). (SM) **6**

The writer at his mischievous best: if the Anne Rice pastiche is not enough — Cassidy meets a Lestat wannabe and tells him what a prat he is — there is the priceless Neil Gaiman cameo. Of course, it is not really Gaiman ... nothing like him. A very funny book. (RH) **9**

Prometheus 1

by Morrison & Jorgenson + Meiko; New Years Evil

Continuing in **JLA** 16, ever-inventive writer Grant Morrison creates the cunning Prometheus, a surreal new foe intent on destroying the JLA. An intriguing origin story exploring the villain's twisted psyche. (JE) **8**

Secret Origins

various

Special reprinting of the much sought-after 1961 special. A must-have for any collection. (PCP) **9**

Starman 39

by Robinson & Harris + Von Grawbadger

<+ -> Using his knowledge of comics history to great effect, James Robinson whips up a conspiracy involving 1940s Quality hero Bulletman which drags Jack into a confrontation with Captain Marvel. Along the way there are the usual character-defining dialogue pages and a mature portrayal of Jack's feelings for Sadie. (RH) **8**

Superboy-Risk Double-Shot 1

by Jurgens + Kesel & Phillips + Rodriguez

The United States army assigns Superboy to bring in Risk for his month's break-in of Norad. Routine melodramatics and macho stereotypes abound in this, the least interesting of the Teen Titans' one-shots. (PCP) **3**

Superman Red/ Superman Blue 1

various

A mundane series entry in which the entire Superman creative team takes turns in the build-up to the Man of Energy's transformation into two entities. This comes in two versions – one with a 3D cover and a replica of the 1953 Superman 3D comic, the latter being far more enjoyable than the main feature. (PCP) **6**

IMAGE COMICS

Darkness 10

by Z + Wohl; Top Cow

<+ -> Part three of the **Darkness-Witchblade** crossover sees Jackie and Sara manipulated into a confrontation by the evil Sonatine. Employing three pencillers and numerous inkers, Top Cow plays the unsatisfying game of musical chairs with its artists. (JE) **5**

Divine Right 3

by Lee w/Williams; WildStorm

<-> This title works best with an emphasis on character and an irreverence for cliché. If he delivers on his hint that he will see the series to conclusion, this book could become Jim Lee's answer to to *Akira*. (JE) **7**

Gen[13] Bootleg 14

by Mariotte & Phillips + Leach; WildStorm

Leader Lynch is attacked by a deadly adversary from his past and neighbours, complaining about the noise. An enjoyable slapstick cover with good art marks a welcome return to superheroics for artist Gary Leach on inks. (JE) **6**

Gen[13] 25

by Choi & Rio + Arcudi & Frank; WildStorm

<+ -> Writer Brandon Choi wears his influence on his sleeve, and never is it more obvious than in this bland variation on Chris Claremont's acclaimed X-Men storyline, *Days of Future Past*. The preview of next issue's new creative team shows more promise. (JE) **5**

Hong on the Range 1

by Wu & Lafferty

This strip – a sort of pseudo science-fiction skit on Western themes about the misadventures of a naive lad who is mistaken for a bank robber – is not realy strong enough to support a title. It would be great in an anthology. (FPB) **5**

Jinx 4

by Bendis

<+> Either Brian Michael Bendis grows on you or this issue is better. Goldfish and Jinx's stupid break-up is well-imagined, although it is difficult to believe that they will be

apart for long, and there is a pleasing convergence of subplots and a surprising finale. (FPB) **6**

The Maxx 34

by Kieth w/Sinclair; I Before E

<+> Another stunning performance by Kieth, returning to the story of the unhappy teenage girl of a couple of issues ago. Intensely sympathetic, hugely imaginative, staggeringly powerful, this is one of the best series on the market and absolutely the best soap-opera genre comic I have seen. (FPB) **10**

Savage Dragon 44

by Larsen; Highbrow

<+> On a parallel Earth Dragon searches for his dead lover. Meanwhile police lieutenant Mendoza tries to uncover Dragon's secret origin. Larsen peppers this eccentric series with subtle twists, plenty of ideas and dry, caustic humour – it deserves a wider audience. (JE) **7**

Spawn 67

by McFarlane & Capullo + Wolf; TMP

<-> Tragedy, pathos, the plight of the poor and the common man are the typical elements of comics veteran Will Eisner's intense storytelling – and they are markedly visible here, lending this flawed title its dramatic edge. (JE) **7**

A Touch of Silver 6

by Valentino

<+ -> All but deserted by his father, troubled and confused Timmy falls in with very much the wrong crowd and gets in trouble. Valentino is trying hard with his art, and his story gets more truthful and gut-wrenching each issue. (FPB) **8**

Voodoo 2

by Moore & Rio w/Lopez; WildStorm

<+ -> As the mystery unfolds it becomes clear that the devil and possibly God are the powers behind the scenes. This is part of a very much larger story, but in the interim it has a slight feeling of Alan Moore by the numbers about it. (FPB) **7**

Witchblade 19

by Z + Wohl & Turner + DTron; Top Cow

<+> In this conclusion to the **Witchblade-Darkness** crossover, Jackie and Sara are stripped of their powers by supernatural assassin Ian Nottingham. Sterling work from Turner, but the literate, considered script lacks vigour. (JE) **7**

MARVEL COMICS

Avengers 1

by Busiek & Perez + Vey

It seems churlish to quibble about too large a cast (making this read like a crossover series in places) when they are drawn by the big-cast master himself, Kurt Busiek. But despite cramming this edition with every Avenger ever seen, he does have the good sense to give more space to the interesting characters, such as Hawkeye. An exciting reprise, none the less. (RH) **8**

It is a culture shock, going from Liefeld's skewed mannequins to a panel with 37 clearly drawn characters. The threat that unites all Avengers is a fossilised plot, and Perez may not be now as perfectly suited to the title as Epting and Palmer were, but the level of draftsmanship here is gorgeous. High hopes. (TH) **8**

Embodying traditional superheroics, this old-fashioned comic feels dangerously dated. The Perez-Vey art team lacks the spark of previous collaborations and the whole affair appears aimed at fairly young readers – not necessarily a bad thing, by the way. Approach with caution. (JE) **6**

A case of too much and not enough as Kurt Busiek stuffs every Avenger character into a poor plot with second-rate villains. But Busiek is an excellent writer, so things are sure to improve – and it is a delight to see Perez drawing Marvel's classics again. (AK) **7**

Captain America 2

by Waid & Garney + Wiacek

<+ -> Captain America is forced to sacrifice his shield to save a life in a story with a beautiful final splash page. A simple idea perfectly handled, with the action leading up to it given a wonderful, James Bond-type feel. (RH) **8**

<+> The eponymous hero needs all his resources to save a United States submarine from destruction. This is one of the finest examples of storytelling in the medium. A superbly crafted balance of dynamic, character-based scripting and bold, lean visuals. (JE) **8**

Fantastic Four 2

by Lobdell & Davis + Farmer

<+ -> Once again it is Alan Davis who steals the show with his perfect rendition of the team — the best since John Byrne at his peak. There are more Byrne echoes in the writing as Lobdell concentrates on the frequently ignored Invisible Woman and shows her to be a most formidable fighter. (RH) **8**

<-> The dust has hardly settled at the Fantastic Four's new dockside headquarters when Sue Richards becomes the unlikely target of the strange assassin, Iconoclast. Top-notch art and a slight story with fun

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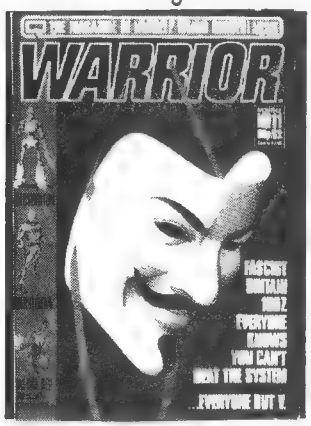

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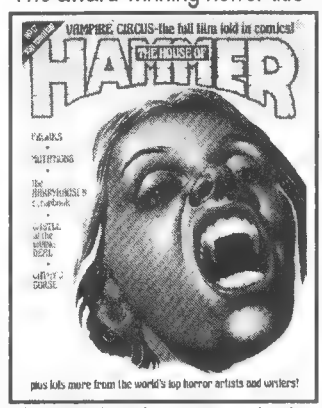
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character interplay that promises revelations in the future. (JE) 7

Incredible Hulk 461

by David & Brewer + Pepoy

<+> The return of Bruce Banner has certainly increased this book's attractiveness – a *new*, world-weary Banner who proves a pleasant change from the whining wimp of old. Nice to see Thunderbolt Ross back too, and there is even a hint that Peter David may have put his tongue back in his cheek. (RH) 7

Iron Man 1

by Busiek & Chen + Cannon

This should be good and it is, thanks again to Kurt Busiek. Tony Stark is back, forging a new company for himself and mixing it with a somewhat flat bunch of Image-style baddies (but that is surely the point). The artwork is solid, clean and detailed, and there is a teaser for future developments on the final page. (RH) 8

Of the four returns, this is the most difficult title to reconnect with the past. Stark gets a bad attack of the internal monologues while gazing into the near-distance and old villains queue up on the sidelines. The art is nice, but Tony is just a wee bit boring when he is being so pleasant to everybody. (TH) 6

<-> Iron Man reaches a turning point in his life while enemies old and new plot his downfall. The book feels a touch staid, but strong visuals and solid scripting give some depth to a slightly shallow, unsympathetic character. (JE) 8

Man-Thing 3

by DeMatteis & Sharp; Strange Tales

<+ +> Man-Thing has no character, so those around him made his stories interesting – and the introduction of Devil-Slayer, another Seventies horror hero, gives an intriguing twist to this otherwise bland remix of an old Marvel title. Sharp's art is satisfyingly moody. (AK) 6

Marvel Team-Up 6

by Peyer & Hood + Perrota

<+ -> Namor returns an amnesiac from the Heroes Reborn universe and stumbles into a fight between Spider-Man and the Wrecking Crew. Although there is a promising plotline involving Namor's lost powers, the ugly artwork and clichéd scenario make the issue as a whole a disappointment. (RH) 4

Peter Parker: Spider-Man 88

by Mackie & Romita Jr + Hanna

<+ -> More classic Spider-Man as Norman Osborne puts the hero in the frame again, leading to a confrontation between the arch foes as powerful as anything from Osborne's original run of villainy from the 1960s. Add John Romita's flawless artwork, a cover to die for and Spider-Man turning for help to an unexpected source, and it is hard not to give this a 10. (RH) 9

Silver Surfer 135

by DeMatteis & Grummett + Ryan

<+ -> The Surfer dies in true DeMatteis style — religious images such as the flight to Heaven feature prominently — but he may be saved by Alicia's love for him. The arrival of classic Surfer foe Mephisto is timed perfectly. Tom Grummett's art shines on. (RH) 8

Spectacular Spider-Man 253

by DeMatteis & Ross + Green

<+ -> Spider-Man fights Kraven's son and Mary Jane, who is by now sick of her aunt's perpetual pestering, decides to let her in on Peter's big secret. Expect a DeMatteis twist on that one, like this issue's with Kraven. (RH) 9

Spider-Man/Kingpin: To the Death

by DeFalco + Lee & Romita + Green

An excercise in nostalgia which may be rightly dismissed as simply old fashioned by younger readers — Stan Lee's scripting here is uncomfortably too close to self-parody. John Romita, however, is in a class of his own, and seeing him draw Spider-Man again is a real treat. If only Marvel could persuade Steve Ditko to come back to the character just once more... (RH) 8

Thunderbolts 11

by Busiek & Bagley + Russell

<+> On the run, the team splits into two factions as Baron Zemo draws ever closer to his objective of world domination. Kurt Busiek manages to cram in every conceivable twist and turn and Bagley's art this time is above average. (GSD) 8

Uncanny X-Men 351

by Seagle & Benes + Townsend

<- - -> New team member Cecilia Reyes quits the team, returning to work and whine about her life in this fall-out issue. That is all very well, but come the issue's end, you somehow just know that she will be back at the mansion. Lacklustre artwork and scripting make a boring package. (GSD) 5

Werewolf by Night 1

by Jenkins & Manco

The unfortunately-named Jack Russell is back, and he has decided to look into why it is that he periodically changes into a wolf... And that is about all, apart from the inevitable transformation sequence. Manco's art is impressive, if a little dark in places. (RH) 5

What If? 105

by DeFalco & Frenz + Sienkiewicz

In a future scenario Parker's daughter clashes with Norman Osborne's son and the Spider-Man and Goblin war on. Thankfully Tom DeFalco avoids Dark Knight gloom and opts for a brighter outcome. A fun read: you could almost wish for a sequel. (RH) 7

Wolverine 120

by Ellis & Yu

<+-> Wolverine is manipulated into going to the White Ghost in part two of *Not Yet Dead*. A four-issue lesson on how to write an X-book with the added benefit of gorgeous artwork. It is a shame that this creative combination will be gone in two issues' time. Thanks, Marvel, for (apparently) scaring off what could have been your best team. (GSD) 9

US INDEPENDENTS

Action Girl 13

by Thompson, Watasin, Leidy, Tobey & Dyer; Slave Labor

<- -> Not one of **Action Girl**'s best issues. The normally charming Watasin turns in a slew of lesbian clichés, Jill Thompson's offering is astonishingly thin and most of the rest is just forgettable. The only valid story in this book is Mike Tobey's anecdote about babysitting, but it is simply not sufficiently strong to carry this issue of the comic on its own. (FPB) 4

Ahlea 2

by Berry; Radio

<+ -> An agonised consideration on death and loss which suffers from two serious flaws: a great deal of wasted space – the story could have been told in half the number of pages – and an unnecessary happy ending. Superior work all the same, and tackling fundamental issues most comics do not even seem to comprehend. (FPB) 7

An Accidental Death

by Brubaker & Shanower; Fantagraphics

With a story by Ed Brubaker, the finest writer in US comics, art by the excellent Eric Shanower – how can this fail? The tragic, troubling story of *things that only ever happen to others* is equal to Brubaker's best, and he *is* the best. (FPB) 10

Ash: Cinder & Smoke 6

by Waid + Augustyn & Ramos + Palmiotti; Event

<+ -> In the conclusion to an entertaining series Ash has to deal with fiery villain Molotov while a mob-war threatens his neighbourhood and the real identity

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of the killer of Ash's father begins to emerge. (JE) **6**

Bison & Company 2

by Gumbs; Boink! It's Cartoon

I hate to have to say this, but to create a humour comic you *have* to be funny. (FPB) **4**

Bone 30

by Smith; Cartoon Books

<+ -> Even by **Bone**'s high standards this is a tremedous issue, going from cliffhanger to cliffhanger with heart-stopping efficiency and dispensing plenty of mystery, emotion and daffy humour as the Bones and their little friends are pushed into an alliance with ... *[sshhh, it's a mystery]*. (FPB) **10**

Caffeine 8

by Hill; Slave Labor

Do the words *overblown*, *excessive*, and *pointless* convey anything? This book has only one live moment – when a slobbering teenager finds his sister in a porn mag. But that is soon lost in a blizzard of absurd and meaningless overstatement. What is the point, exactly? (FPB) **4**

Deity 2

by Napton & Allstaetter; Hyperwerks

<+-> The authors are trying to make something of significance with little cultural backround to do it – and on the whole they succeed. This issue, the origin of the Ma'shiva is revealed – and more of Jamie's screwed-up friends. (FPB) **6**

The Eden Descendants 1

by Hendricks & Jones, Buccini + Sisneros; Quester Entertainment

An above-average, green-minded post-apocalypse story that suffers from a reliance on established ideas and the disparity between Mark Jones and Randy Buccini's art styles. But it is not entirely a waste of time. (FPB) **5**

Fighting American: Rules of the Game 1

by Loeb & McGuinness; Awesome

The first absolutely unqualified, gobbling-wobbling turkey to waddle out of the Awesome farm, this is the most dreary and shameless Captain America rip-off in all creation. The art, while not bad, makes the hero bulky enough for the Hulk, and the story only comes to very slight life when Spice the android speaks – she's not much cop, but compared to the rest of the book... As for turning old Simon and Kirby's Hotsky Trotsky and Poison Ivan into Frank Millerish heavy villains, words simply fail me. (FPB) **4**

The Fighting American has retired, but as with most superhero retirements it is only temporary. Some of his old foes are back gunning for him, as is his sidekick. Considering how bad the first series was this is a revelation, with its exceptional artwork and a plot finely balancing action and humour, albeit a little rough in places. Rob Liefeld please take note. (GSD) **7**

<+> McGuiness's cleaner, cartoon style and old characters Hotsky Trotsky and Poison Ivan promised a return to the satirical humour of Kirby's original, but Loeb cranks out a standard Awesome-Image sort of story all fight scenes and attitude. What a waste. (AK) **6**

Forty Wints 2

by Peters & Sneed; Oddjobs

<+ -> Under the strain of her nightmares little Pandora runs away from home and is found by a charming gang of teenage boys who fantasise about being superheroes and like to flout the law. Her monster is still in pursuit, but now she has heroic helpers as well as a blond guardian angel. (FPB) **8**

Lunar Donut (Fat Free) 5

by K & B Barham w/T & M Tucker; Lunar Donut

As if it were not obvious from the title this is a humour comic with three strips ranging from fairly straight superhero with a smile to the daftness of Rubber Roy and Monkey Boy and Captain Happy. Good fun, on the whole. (FPB) **7**

Poot 1

by Holcombe; Fantagraphics

Holcombe has a thorough control of comics art, but what is he doing with it? He seems to be making some sort of post-modern commentary on funny animal fiction and old Hollywood films, but his pictures fail to connect and the result is just too subjective. (FPB) **5**

Pulp 1: 2

various; Viz

<+> The most commercial serial in this eclectic 128-page manga anthology is *Strain*, by Buronson and Ikegami, the creators of *Sanctuary*. The storyline here focuses on the repercussions when an assassin befriends a child prostitute and kills his own employer. Ikegami's photorealist artwork in this book is undoubtedly peerless. (JE) **7**

Shadow Reigns 0: Renegade Soul

by Horus; Aix

An interesting supernatural concoction about the war between Heaven and hell with a sort of super-real Clint Eastwood as heaven's heavy-hitter. Ridiculous it may sound but this is a good comic, with some attractive art. (FPB) **7**

Silly Daddy 16

by Chiappetta; Chiappetta

Probably not the best issue with which to enter Joe Chaippetta's peculiar, imaginative world, this is a nearly impenetrable homage to (or satire on) the Fantastic Four. But he is certainly an assured and individual artist. (FPB) **6**

UK TALES

Strangehaven 8

by Millidge; Abiogenesis

<+> The best **Strangehaven** issue yet, and that is saying something. This one focuses on the rather touching reason for the village celebrating Christmas in August, framed by the usual quota of magic and mystery. A terrific comic whose art is constantly but quietly improving. (FPB) **9**

SMALL PRESS

Collected Splash and Smokey

by Soph; £4.00 from Sophie, 38 Oyster Fields, St Albans AL3 5UP

Small press fans fondly remember this long-running quasi autobiographical story about a hairdresser and her friends. Though so sketchily drawn that many will hardly think it comics, it has a nice feel – like letters from a friend. In some ways, this is the best of such comics. (FPB) **6**

Octobriana 1: Filling in the Blanks

by Taylor & Roberts; £1.80 from Artful Salamander, 306 Wentworth Avenue, Southbourne, Bournemouth BH5 2EF

Is this book's heroine, Octobriana, fact or fiction? In a world of conspiracies and paranoia, writer Carl Malone endeavours to discover the truth. The artwork is good but the really intriguing element here is Stuart's Taylor's assured scriptwriting, with a dramatic opening sequence and subtle moments of humour. (JE) **8**

Small Fruit 7: Conspicuous Consumption

by Derbyshire; 50p + stamp (2nd) from Denny Derbyshire, 4 Harwick Street, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 5RZ

This is really excellent. A satire on consumerism turns into something more profound with a ravishingly beautiful ending and there is a delightful shorter item about the ocean. This marks a high point in British comics. (FPB) **9**

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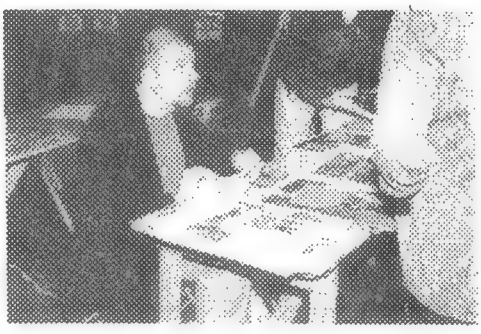

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PUBLISHER INDEX

IN ANSWER to continual requests for details concerning comics publishers, the CI Publisher's Index covers all major newsstand and direct sale mainstream comics publishers. For information about small press and non-newsstand UK titles, readers are referred to the Announcements section of our classified listings.

US PUBLISHERS

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■ **AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT,** 9744 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Ca 90212 (adventure titles)

■ **BONGO ENTERTAINMENT,** 1999 Ave of the Stars, Los Angeles, Ca 90607 (Simpsons - related humour) (001) 310 788 1367

■ **CALIBER PRESS,** 225 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, Mi 48170 (b&w adventure titles) (001) 1-888-22-COMIC

■ **CHAOS COMICS,** 7645 E. Evans Road, Suite #6, Scottsdale, Az 85260 (fantasy/ horror comics)

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■ **VIZ COMICS,** PO Box 77010, San Francisco, Ca 94107 (translated manga titles)

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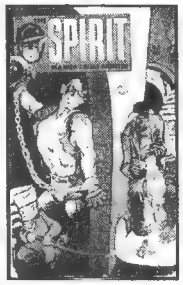

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11-12 ..... 0.50

Classic X-Men
2vfn 1.50
3fn 0.50
4vfn 1.00
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26 (new Wolv story) 2.50
27-33, 35-38 ..... 1.00
40, 42 ..... 1.00
43 (giant) 1.25
44-45 ..... 1.00
becomes X-Men Classic... 47-53 ..... 1.00
54 (giant) 1.25
55, 58-59, 61, 64 .... 1.00

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38 (vs X-Men; rare) 2.50

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-1 ..... 0.75
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8, 10-11 ..... 1.00
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42, 48 (Davis) 1.00
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71 (holo card cvr) ... 3.00
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100 ($2.95 giant) 1.50
102-108 ..... 0.60
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...Special Edition: Air Apparent ($4.95 square-bound card cvrs) 2.00

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6vfn+ (giant) 5.00

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3nm- 2.00
3-4vfn 1.00
4 ..... 2.00

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(special premium edition; purple metal cvr)
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33 (Capt Britain) 0.50
34 (Excalibur) 0.50
35 (Nightcrawler) 0.50
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121 (Wolv-Venom) .. 0.50
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142 149 160 ..... 0.50

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G/S X-Men 1 repr ... 2.00

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12fn 1.00
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16-17 ..... 1.25
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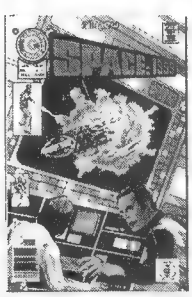
X-Men titles continue on the following page



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26nm (Mike Zeck) 1.25
27nm (Romero?) 1.25

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5nm (Warhund) 1.00
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9nm (Byrne) 3.00

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121-124 129-131nm .. 1.25

Fightin' Marines
132 134nm (1976) 1.00

For Lovers Only
76nm (1974) 1.00
82-85nm 1.00

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28nm (1976) 1.25

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7vfn- (1962) 9.00
(slight foxing, lower edge)
10fn+ 10.00

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116-119nm (1976) 1.00

Just Married(1974)
103 110-111nm 1.00

Love and Romance
17, 19nm (1974) 1.00

Love Diary
97-100nm (1976) 1.00

My Only Love
4-7nm (1976) 1.00

Reptisaurus theTerrible
3vfn- (1962) 12.50

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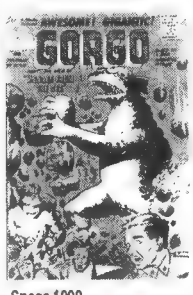
6nm (1976; M Zeck) .. 1.25

Secret Romance
38-39 41nm (1976) 1.00

Secrets ofYoung Brides
4-7nm (1976) 1.00

Space Adventures
60fn (1967, Aparo) 6.50



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continued from previous page

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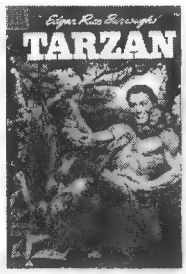

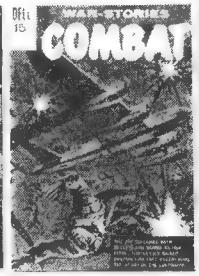

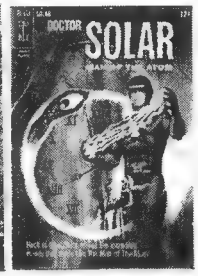

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4vfn (1972) 2.50
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9vfn 2.00
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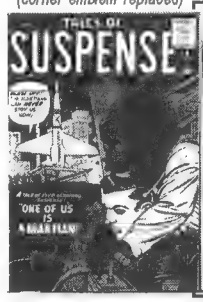

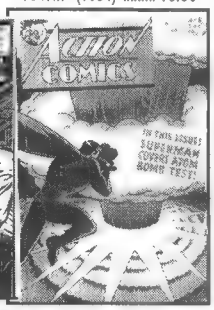

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Movers and Shakers

The latest news, views and rumours in our ever-popular overview of the hits, misses, prices, projects and people making comics news. Reported by the mysterious and controversial team of investigative diggers and delvers known to the world only as ITMA.

The Junior JLA

AFTER the astounding success of Grant Morrison and Howard Porter's **JLA** was maintained for a full year, DC expanded the concept with the **JLA: Year One** 12-issue series, **JLA: Secret Files and Origins** and the three-part **JLA: Paradise Lost**.

The company is now set to follow these up with another spin-off, this time looking more like the original Teen Titan line-up, starring DC's major young heroes, Superboy, Robin and Impulse.

Updating previous news, **JLA: World Without Adults** editor Eddie Berganza has said the two-issue series will be illustrated by art teams Mike (**X-Men**) McKone/ Mark McKenna and Humberto (**Impulse**) Ramos/Wayne Faucher and that the title will be in DC's prestige format.

This will be an appetite-whetter for an ongoing series, with the working title of **JLA Jr**, to be drawn by Todd Nauck and Larry Stucker. Both the mini and the continuing series will be written by Todd (**Sensational Spider-Man**) DeZago.

This is what has doubtlessly kicked off the rumour grapevine again on that old **JLA-Avengers** crossover being back in development. Although DC hasn't denied the possibility of such a team-up between the two leading superteams of the comic industry, a spokesperson said that any pairing will have to wait until at least the latter half of 1998.

Continuity tie-in

BABYLON 5: In Valen's Name, the new three-issue DC series which links in directly to the successful TV series, was originally to have been a story for TV Season Five.

After the completion of the third *Babylon 5* series, the programme was cut from its planned five seasons to four and series creator J. Michael Straczynski had to condense two series worth of stories into the fourth season.

But shortly after filming started on what was meant to be the final series, the TNT network obtained the production rights and changed it back to its five season status.

This meant that Straczynski had the opportunity to rework some of his original ideas, but a few still had to be shelved – the major one concerning what happened to Babylon 4 after the first war with the Shadows.

In Valen's Name answers this question and slots into the series continuity between the conclusion of the most recent Shadow War and the Earth Civil War plot.

It is believed the comic's events will be referred to in an early episode of the new fifth season.

Rise and fall

CHRIS CLAREMONT, newly appointed vice president - editorial director of Marvel Comics, will be the new writer to work with regular artists Salvador Larroca and Art Thibert on the **Fantastic Four**, starting with issue #5. According to Marvel editorial, Claremont will helm the book "for the foreseeable future".

Claremont will begin by scripting over departing writer Scott Lobdell's plot for issue #4, while Claremont and Lobdell are described as having "worked together" on issue #5.

The decision is said to have come as a shock to the departing Lobdell, who only three months ago was talking about his plans for the first 12 months of the relaunched flagship title.

It had been Lobdell's idea to try to coax Claremont back to Marvel. Ironic, considering that the former stand-up comedian's own comic-book career took off when he replaced Claremont on the two main X-books. Lobdell had intended to bring back the man he replaced to work alongside him, but this seems to have gone awry...

As well as taking over the reins of the **FF**, Claremont is also to take control of the editorial direction for the X-books from Lobdell, who was unceremoniously dumped from the Marvel top sellers just weeks before Claremont's return!

Lobdell has had little to say in the wake of his departure and in the face of wildly conflicting rumours regarding the future of his comics career.

But, responding to a request for comments concerning the events of the last few weeks, Lobdell did send a brief reply: "Future cloudy, try again later."

Lobdell may be remaining enigmatic about his future, but according to former **Green Lantern: Mosaic** penciller Cully Hamner, Lobdell, Hamner and inker Jason Martin have been assigned to produce a four-part **Daredevil** story arc following Joe Kelly's departure with issue #375.

Byrne on re-treads

THE comic industry's Mr Never Say Never Again is moving back to the company that launched him as a leading creator in the 1970s.

John Byrne, having already re-invented most Marvel and DC characters, will be back on Marvel's payroll to handle a 12-issue maxi-series outlining the early years of Spider-Man.

Under the working title of **Spider-Man: Year One**, the new series will focus on the formative year of Marvel's most recognisable icon, but the somewhat unoriginal project is already creating waves.

Byrne recently announced that most (if not all) of Kurt Busiek's acclaimed **Untold Tales of Spider-Man** sub-plots will play little part in his series.

Byrne also suggested in an open notice posted on the Internet that Kurt Busiek's stories in the **Amazing Fantasy** #16-18 mini-series, "...were *untold* adventures [and] I will be clearly stating they did *not* happen.".

He then took this one step further when saying "**Untold Tales of Spider-Man** was, well... untold. **Year One** will be a retelling of the original material."

So, no surprises in store there.

Halfway through Byrne's run on the **Spider-Man** title, he will be unveiling a four-part series based around the Golden Age **Captain America**, which, like **Spider-Man: Year One**, will redefine the character's early days – in this case during World War II. The series will cover Steve Rogers' life from becoming a super-soldier up to his battle with Baron Zemo which resulted in him being frozen alive for almost 50 years.

When both these series end, speculation has it that Byrne is intending to work with Chris Claremont and Terry Austin (for the first time in many years) on... **The X-Men**!

This tentative series will also be set in the past and tell the story of how the X-Men were recruited, trained and eventually moulded into a superhero team. Not surprisingly, the working title of the comic is **X-Men: Year One**.

CC to play LL?

JUMPING ahead of Mike Conroy's *Frame to Frame* in casting scoops, we have heard that *Friends* star Courtney Cox is to be the next big screen Lois Lane.

Superman Reborn is being directed by Tim (*Batman*) Burton and, according to magazine reports, still has Nicholas Cage in the lead role. A Warner Bros spokesperson

refused to comment on whether the casting for Lois Lane had been confirmed, but did say, "It would be logical to assume as Ms Cox is a similar actor to Margot Kidder [who played Lois to Christopher Reeve's Clark Kent] and both bear a resemblance to the character's feisty manner and good looks".

The man who was to have originally directed *Superman Reborn*, Kevin (*Clerks*) Smith, is still sticking with comics as his source. He has announced he is developing a *Green Lantern* film for Warner Bros, which he hopes will stick rigidly to its superhero roots.

Sent to Coventry

HERE'S a sure-fire way to turn comic fans off... Bill Willingham's highly-acclaimed series **Coventry** is on hold.

"After finishing three issues of **Coventry**, Bill has gotten bogged down. It's a very complex story, both in terms of narrative and in terms of the art style he's chosen," said Fantagraphics co-publisher Kim Thompson. "Bill tells me he will finish at least the initial eight-issue arc, but he needs to blow out the cobwebs on a smaller project, which he'll probably self-publish."

Word of mouth has turned **Coventry** into one of the big independent successes of the last 12 months. The first issue has been selling for over £10, but rather than capitalising on the popularity and increasing the output, Willingham is curtailing it.

With issue #4 unlikely to appear before the autumn, interest may well have waned and something could easily usurp it. Perhaps Willingham should have remembered the golden rule: Give the people what they want when *they* want it!

West End Grrrs

THERE'S a battle taking place in London which could have major repercussions, as, despite the in-dustry being on a down-turn, the number of comics retailers in the West End continues to grow.

After eight years, 125 East Barnet Road will no longer be a disaster-prone comic shop, as Mighty World of Comicana walks away from its ghosts to concentrate on building the stature of its recently-opened West End store.

But this month, the very month Comicana has made its announcement, it is to face increased competition as Brighton's Hive (the self-styled "New Kings of Discount Comics") becomes the latest shop to leap into the West End.

With a knack for seizing opportunities, Hive – the ex-Reservoir Frogs – is opening in an address already well known to comics fans: 23 Denmark Street, the very building in "Tin Pan Alley" where the first Forbidden Planet used to be situated.

Tickets are available in the Movers Sweepstakes Casualty Race, if anybody wants to play.

Blade delayed

MARVEL'S ongoing **Blade** series – set to debut in spring to coincide with the Wesley Snipes film – has been pushed back to August, so it will still benefit from the delayed release of the feature film.

The film is reported to have been bumped because of its own success. Apparently it has been so well-received by test audiences that it is being moved up a notch, to enable it to compete with the major summer releases.

This may well have come as a relief to Marvel, as the precursor to the ongoing series, **Blade: Crescent City Blues** had trade orders of about 10,000, a figure far lower than Marvel's cut-off for cancellation.

This delay and these figures should allow Marvel time to consider what is more viable for the character: the ongoing series, as planned, or a quick movie one-shot!

The hot or not stakes

IAN Churchill's **Coven** is set to be the first major "hot" comic of the New Year. The first issue has been selling for £15 at recent London marts and one dealer believes that the title (a cross between the X-Files and the X-Men) could be as successful as **Gen**[13].

● Awesome's other potential "hot" book is Jeff Matsuda's **Kaboom**, where the first issue is selling for over £5 and the scarcer 2nd issue for as high as £10.

● There has been more interest in **Spawn** and related series since the release of the *Spawn* film. Dealers have noticed even more movement on back issues, especially Neil Gaiman's spin-off **Angela** mini. Issues #2 and #3 have been selling for upwards of £7 and the three-issue set can cost as much as £25!

● Believe it or not, **The Darkness** isn't hot! The recently released chart topper, issue #11, has been slow to move from retailers' shelves and dealers stalls, with many lambasting the poor quality alternate covers.

The set of eleven was on sale for £45 at the most recent London mart, but the dealer who had them for sale could only sell (presumably discounted) to friends and dealers!

Even the scarce 11th cover isn't that scarce and retailers are in an uproar about it. They had to order 10 of each of the other 10 covers to get a copy of the 11th, quite a risky outlay for many.

But now one of the biggest US mail order companies is offering the "valuable" 11th edition free of charge to people buying the other 10 versions. Whoops!

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CHRISTMAS CRACKERS:

COMIC CARDS

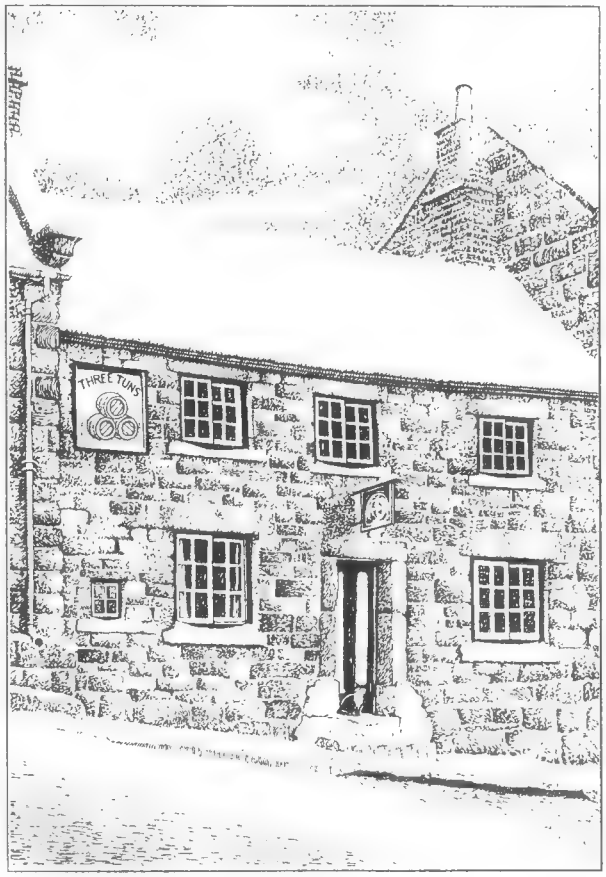
CHRISTMAS brought CI the usual sackful of cards, some witty, some charming, some highly promotional, some positively embarrassing.

For a change, we thought we would share a few of the best of the bunch with you.

While most of the major publishers' cards were somewhat yawn-inducing this year, here are a few gems simply too good to throw away...

Above: Fat Freddy's Cat relaxes for the festive season. *Above right:* A quiet scene from Bryan Talbot's **Legacy of Luther Arkwright** presented as a Christmas card.

Above: Chaos Comics' Christmas cheer. *Below:* Illustrator and (DC Thomson) cartoonist Keith Robson's finely rendered local!



Above: Lew Stringer's soused Santa and friends. *Below:* Tom (**Mainbrain**) Mason's Hollywood Santa and Fantagraphics with another inebriated Father Christmas.

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LETTERS

Comics International, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

*The **CI** blitz on the US market has resulted in a 100% favourable response, both from fans and industry professionals. While some opinions, such as that of **X-Men/Alpha Flight** artist John Cassaday are quite pithy ("Your magazine kicks"), others are longer.*

In this issue's extended letters column, along with our regular assortment of the agony and the ecstacy, we're giving space over to some of the first ones in... ...Dez Skinn/Editor

WW at SF on CI

Walden Wong
Inker: More than Mortal
San Francisco, California

I WANTED to let you know that your **Comics International** magazine is really nice.

Some of the information and images that you have in that one magazine have more "late breaking news" than any United States comic magazines.

I was really impressed with the information, considering most of the comics work was done in USA.

A really great magazine!

Power of the critic

Christopher O'Brien
New York, NY

I WAS very pleased to recently come upon your publication here in the colonies. As a former critic for New York's **Village Voice**, I find myself in complete agreement with Joe Legracni (*Letters*, **CI** #89) that critics have far too much power, and that their judgment can often be tainted by personal biases or even incidental events.

This is particularly true in New York, where a good or bad review by one man – the **New York Times** theatre critic – can literally make or break a Broadway show.

This explains why esteemed playwright Arthur (Death of a Salesman) Miller invariably opens his new productions in London, where critical opinion counts less.

Imagine months, or even years of hard work – not to mention millions of dollars – wiped out because a critic might not like farce, say, or may have had a fight with his wife before he left the house. And not only that, but critics often get it blindingly wrong! There are dozens of examples of this, but to give just one, *2001: A Space Odyssey* was roundly dismissed by the cognoscenti upon its release, while it is now universally recognised as a classic of its genre.

The best thing is to provide a consensus of opinion, as I noticed you sometimes do in your reviews section.

Vampi artwork

Seth Biederman
Harris Publications Inc
New York, USA

FIRST, thanks for the excellent review of **Vampirella: Blood Lust** #2. We had high hopes for this ambitious mini-series, and it's good to know that it was well received by both critics and fans.

However, I must take issue with your reviewer's idea that "some of the close-ups look like computer-manipulated photos" – absolutely no such techniques were used in the **Blood Lust** mini-series. Every page was 100% painted by Jusko (we have the original art boards to prove it) and the only way photos were used were perhaps as reference by Jusko.

On the other hand, the fact that Jusko's work may be mistaken for photos does attest to the high quality of his work.

What's really selling?

Charles Robinson
27 Gathorne Terrace
Leeds LS8 5EZ

CI is the only thing I buy without fail every month from my local comics shop. However, there is one thing still lacking: an index of European publishers.

And while I've got pen to paper, how about another chart in *Comics Economics* showing what shops are actually *selling* to customers, as opposed to what they've merely ordered from their distributors?

We all know that so-called "top sellers" often just sit on the shelves, so it would be nice to know just what people are actually buying.

Two excellent ideas, Charles. We're already working on the index of top European publishers, to complement our existing guides.

Unless we simply chose a cross-section of retailers, the sales chart could prove difficult, but we won't let that stop us! ...Dez

Preacher reaction

Andrew Harvey,
Leytonstone, London E10

I READ with dismay the news that, with **Preacher** set to appear in **The Judge Dredd Megazine**, Fleetway is joining Marvel UK and Titan Magazines in succumbing to reprinting US work for the UK newsstands (*News Europe*, **CI** #89).

Reprinting US comics may be much cheaper than running original material, but, in doing so, the boundaries are set in stone. There is no way sales can go up, there will be no **Warrior**-like quantum leap in quality, no *V for Vendetta* or *Marvelman* ideas being hatched in Britain. Which means no opportunity to sell any fresh UK ideas overseas, syndicated, licensed or merchandised.

That's it. That's all she wrote. Like France, Spain and most of Europe, Britain has thrown in its hand. The cheap and easy option has finally taken over. The news item about **Preacher** reprints made an interesting contrast to something in the previous month's **CI**. That issue you ran a few reports on international comics festivals and mentioned that in Italy **Spawn, Spider-Man** and **X-Men** sell less than 40,000, yet home-grown products sell 10 times that quantity. If **Preacher** can only sell around 50,000 worldwide (including UK, Australasia and such), why is Fleetway wasting its time reprinting it?

Not only is the strip highly controversial with its over-the-top sex, violence and language, but anybody interested will have already seen it, either through comic shops or the Titan collections in bookshops. With **2000AD** and **Judge Dredd Megazine** the sole survivors of an industry which outstripped its American counterpart in both quality and sales only 25 years ago, where will the new talent and new ideas be given space to grow now we're following the European route to disaster?

I've looked at the mainland Europe situation over the years, and seen the invasion of US reprints. **Preacher** really is the thin end of the wedge. Once the suits realise how much money they save with reprints, they'll never want to purchase new material again.

This easy option has killed creativity in France and Spain, it looks like Britain is next.

Ironically, the hero of the day should be Marvel UK. Now it's owned by Italian publishing giant Panini, soon to be sold off by US parent Marvel, there may be a ray of hope. Italy still has a flourishing comics industry, so once Panini is a stand-alone company, perhaps it will look to repeating what Marvel UK did in the late '70s, and relaunch the company with new material tailored to suit its audience instead of cheap and easy reprints designed only for the superhero worshipping comic shop market.

Or maybe I'm being a cockeyed optimist, as Panini doesn't even run new material in Italy!

An interesting speculation, Andrew. But then Panini has little reason to originate as long as it's part of Marvel. With thousands of free pages available, there's no point. Maybe once it's separate and has to pay real money for what it's reprinting, it will realise it isn't worth rolling the presses for such small sales compared to its more successful comics competition.

I remember during my Marvel UK tenure the company accountant suggesting we could save a fortune by dropping Captain Britain (origination) and reprinting Captain America. As he put it, "There's no real difference between them, so why are we wasting money on new material?"

I explained that reprinting Captain America-style strips was what had led to the company's problems in the first place. He didn't understand, but it didn't matter. That wasn't his job.

I really think what we're seeing is a lack of vision here. Top editorial people are either unable to (or unwilling to) take risks. The safe option of keeping costs down doesn't make waves. But until somebody takes the risk – and succeeds – you won't see a resurgence of faith in comics from the major players.

Every time a licenced reprint fails, it damages the industry. Newsagents, like accountants, don't know the difference between Captain Britain and Captain America. So, if a reprint comic fails, they believe comics are dead. Not just reprints, but the entire industry.

That's why the biggest growth curves have been in pre-school and adult humour titles. Because the first few worked, newsagents made a profit and welcomed more.

*I believe reprints have their market, but only as part of a total, not a total in themselves. So, if Preacher keeps **The Megazine** alive, great. At least the rest of the title will be originated and will defray **2000AD's** overheads.*

Perhaps, given its strong base in comics, magazines and graphic novels, it's time for Titan to look at investing in new material, so it has something to sell back to the rest of the world, instead of constantly buying material in. Until then, it's only as strong as the US product it

repackages and continues to play the risky game of uncontrollable licenced short-termism.

But then, it's easy for me to say this. If I was publishing comics, I'd have doubled the frequency of **Viz** *up to monthly, to satisfy demand when it was selling around a million, instead of leaving an opportunity for B-grade rip-offs to attempt to fill the demand and ultimately ruin the entire market.*

...Dez Skinn (still creatively frustrated after all these years)

Sounds risky

Matthew Barber
31/7 Rankeillor Street
Edinburgh EH8 9JA

BACK in the 1980s, several of Britain's top creators such as Alan Moore, Peter Milligan, Brendan McCarthy and Bryan Talbot produced some of their earliest work for the music paper **Sounds**.

Although often crude, most of these strips haven't seen the light of day for over 15 years. Surely Quality Communications has the contacts and clout to reproduce these lost gems?

Back when we were running new Axel Pressbutton material, Steve Moore, Alan Moore and I did discuss reprinting some of the old **Sounds** *strips, but the figures just didn't seem to work out. Which might explain why nobody else has done it since! ...Dez*

A critic's lot

Fabio P Barbieri
33 Brewster Road
Leyton, London E10

JOE LEGRACNI (*Letters*, **CI** #89) claims to agree with Joe Gentile's splenetic outburst without, apparently, having read the original review of Gentile's **Midnight Muse**.

Had he done so, he would know that I did say what was wrong with the comic: very poor writing allied to intense pretentiousness. Isn't that enough? And as for "critics in general having an inordinate amount of power", this really amounts to the power of directing a runaway train (the public's taste) with a piece of wet string. In other words, *the public doesn't listen!*

I panned the new **Supergirl**, it was a hit. I panned **More than Mortal**, now I hear that it's becoming the most successful indie title since **Bone**.

I even panned the very first issue of the best-selling **Gen^{13}** – it feels more like an inordinate amount of *powerlessness*, if you ask me.

Not that I would have it any other way. If I thought for a moment that the destiny of a publication hung upon my word, I would probably never write a review again.

It is precisely because *I know* that reviews are only a tiny factor in the success or otherwise of any strip, that I take the pleasure of saying what I think. The only reward I get for it is the occasional rant from a disappointed author, and the even more occasional thank you letter from a happy one.

Oh, and I got a T-shirt once. That and a lot of enemies.

But may God never send me worse that Huw J. Davies (*Letters*, **CI** #89) who imitates John Byrne's self-righteous whine against the alleged poor quality of Image art, but with far less skill.

How can Davies possibly fail to realise that his nasty, spiteful mention of my own comics leaves him wide open to the same charge he threw at me – that he is jealous of someone who has taken a great deal of trouble and effort to produce proper comics work?

Or perhaps Mr Davies will favour us with the list of valuable and precious comics work he has committed to the page lately?

You seen one comic...

Jon Haward
(artist: Ultra-Klutz)
Suffolk

WHEN I was a kid in the 1970s, you could instantly tell a DC comic from a Marvel.

You could tell a Kirby book from one by Kurt Swan, and John Byrne's artwork from, say, Gene Colan's.

I remember with fondness the clean line art, subtle facial expressions, and good storytelling. Am I alone in thinking that comic books all look the same today, that they're full of big splashy pictures of powerful heroes indistinguishable from one another, and that the covers all blend into one?

And where have all the stories gone?

As always, we sit on the fence here. But hopefully your opinion will spark off a few replies, Jon. ...Dez

Fair game?

David Robinson
Peterborough

THE BEST thing in your December issue (#88) was Paul Kristian's new game. Perhaps I can add: **Ms Tree** (Elder/Wood); **The World Around Us** (Atlas Comics); **Doctor No** (bondage); **Bugs Bunny** (Warren Publishing); **Oliver Twist** (poor); **Sh*t the Dog** (soiled).

The worst thing in #88 was Alan Benson's anti-humour comics letter, but enough has been said about that already!

Moving on, it strikes me that **CI** could give several pages to some of the self-publishers and small press titles usually confined to the announcements in your *Classified* section.

"They can buy space if they wish," I hear you say. But this way these publishers could get some valuable exposure.

Lastly, from time to time, someone advertises an entire comics collection for sale, claiming a lack of space in their gaff.

I suspect that this often means that the wife or girlfriend doesn't want the stuff in the flat. Don't do it, guys! In a few years time you'll regret off-loading them, especially when they increase in value.

Oh, gosh wow golly!

John Miller
Inerlith Row
Edinburgh EH3 5PY

THANKS for the latest **CI**, which I read over a few dull, winter days. As usual, the *Advance Listings* and *Reviews* sections were the most interesting in the magazine.

Also, I must agree with the reviewer who argued that a recent **Green Lantern/Green Arrow** crossover didn't stand up to the 1970s **GL/GA** issues by Denny O'Neill and Neal Adams, and that Kyle Rayner and Connor Hawke are kinda "Oh gosh, wow".

However, in issue #95 of **Green Lantern**, writer Ron Marz gives the reader a welcome rest from the soap opera shenanigans of Kyle and Donna. Drawn in a 1950s style by Jim Starlin, this issue makes me think that perhaps there's hope for present-day comics yet.

I've written to the **Green Lantern** letters column saying much the same thing, but maybe they'd prefer me to say, "Oh gosh, wow! It's a really now comic of the '90s."

Faith restored

Dave *(Animaniacs)* **King**
Leicester

A FEW final comments on the *Letters Extra* section in **CI** #89.

To Dez: I was sorry you had to edit out some of the insulting/funnier lines of my letter, you old spoil sport, you!

To all those who wrote in support of humour comics: you've restored my faith in comic fans and proved conclusively that **Comics International** readers are well read, sexy, glamorous and possess IQs the size of very large things.

To Tom Lennon: regarding your theory on the existence of a secret cabal of silver-tongued humourist devils who secretly control the entire comics industry from within the confines of a shadowy secret fortress somewhere in the Nevada desert... Well that would just be ridiculous, wouldn't it?

Oh, and by the way, I rather like the idea of being put in a cage at UKCAC and prodded with sharp sticks. Let's get Frank to arrange something, eh?

And finally, to Alan Benson: Ya boo sucks!

Too critical

Gary Hill
24a The Grangeway, Grange Park, London N21 2HG

WHILST reading **CI** #89 I got to page 15 and stopped... I couldn't help but notice the full page ad for Chaos City Comics – you'd need seriously bad vision not to...

But when visiting this very shop recently I asked for a copy of **CI** (which I've read for years) only to hear "I'm sorry. We don't stock it as we find it too critical and thus damaging to the whole comics industry"... *Why do they advertise in it, then?*

I know I may sound a bit of a grass, but hey!! What's going on here??

And *please, please* don't change the mag to comic-size.

We've had critics over the last eight years, but that's a new one. We usually hear that by covering new launches with no subjectivity whatsoever, we act more like a retail aid. However, we have been known to print letters from readers who are critical. So, to boost our sales, STOP IT! ...Dez

Mass Media File

Reubs Willmott
19 Melbourne Road
Ipswich IP4 5PP

IT IS always interesting to see what Sarah Bolesworth misses out in her *Media File* column. I still can't believe she made no mention of Stan Lee being interviewed by **Loaded** magazine a while back.

This month's overlooked gem appeared in the December issue of music magazine **Select** in their *100 Most Important People in the World* (a highly subjective list).

Among the musicians, actors, writers and artists were Peter Bagge (at 91) and Matt Groening (at 26).

PS: That Alan Benson is a real wag! A real funny guy! Sadly I don't think he wrote it with his tongue in his cheek.

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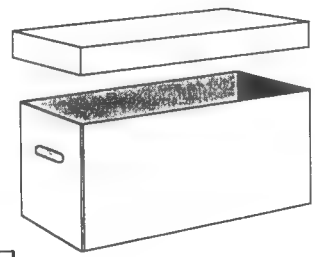

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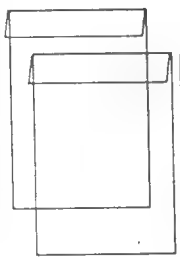

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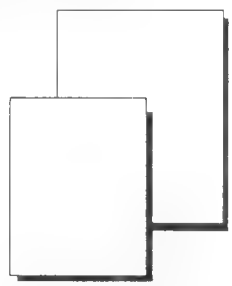

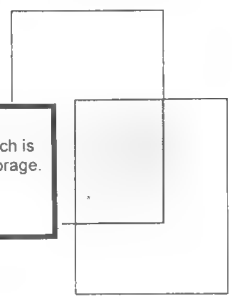

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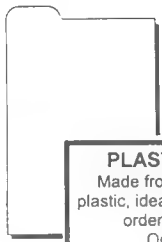

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English 1950s comics wanted: **Space Adventures, Spaceman, Whiz, Master, Nyoka, Captain Marvel, Black Magic, Space Commando, Marvelman, Planet, Crimson Comet, Captain Valiant, Swift Morgan, Roy Carson, Mystery in Space, Marvel Family, Speed Kings, Super Thriller, Strange Worlds** and similar 1940s/1950s items. Please contact Mike Morley, 5 Crompton Avenue, Sprotboro Road, Doncaster DN5 8ED.

Wanted: **Elektra Assassin** trade paperback (reader quality). Darren, 24 Claypits Avenue, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5DA.

Wanted: Videos of the 1979/'80 *Captain America* TV movies (starring Reb Brown). Preferably originals, but copies will do. Please phone: 01785 665425.

Good money paid for a signed **Embrace: Killing Me Softly** comic by Carmen Elektra. Must come with certificate. Contact Ids on 0958 360987 or write: 116 The Ridgeway, Kingsbury, London NW9 0UG.

Dynamic artist wanted to collaborate with Entopic writer to produce an unbalanced paranoia/horror/doom metal/gothic hell/industrial graphic novel. If interested please contact "B" at 9 Cedric Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8NZ. Twisted metalhead visionaries are preferred!

Wanted: British and American dealer catalogues, from between 1992-1995 especially Metropolis and Stateside. Did Dark They Were and Golden Eyed ever have a catalogue? Paying £1 to £5 each. Call David or Pete on 01244 300 165.

Wanted: original artwork by Frank Hampson, Frank Bellamy, Ron Turner (especially *Daleks*), Steve Ditko and Jack Kirby. Will buy or trade. Terry Doyle, 5 Alexandra Grove, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5DZ.

Wanted: **Madman Adventures** 2 (Tundra 1st print); **Creatures of the Id** 1 (Caliber), any **Hellboy, Madman** and Tim Burton's *Nightmare before Christmas* merchandise (eg toys, prints, etc). Also ***Batman Master Series*** trading card special – ***Villain 2*** (Two-Face) and **Batman: The Dark Knight Returns** 10th Anniversary slipcase set edition. Please contact Alan: 70 Meadow Court, Hackness Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 9HH. Or telephone on 0161-861 9338 (after 6pm).

Horror magazines wanted: **Cinefex, Cinefantastique, Famous Monsters, Filfax, Hammer Horror, Monsters,** etc. Please send details of price and condition to: Gary Logan, 19a Bramston Road, Harlesden, London NW10 5TX.

One even more drastically reduced wants list follows. DCs: **Adventure Comics** 210 211; **Batman** 40 42 44 45 48 49 51 53 54 57-60 62 65 72 73 99; **Blackhawk** 9-11 16 19-22 24-26 28 30 31 33 35 38 42-44 53 56 65 121; **Detective Comics** 200 201 205 206 209 214 216 218 220 229 230 254; **House of Mystery** 63 76 84; **Mystery in Space** 3 4 9-11 13 18 19 21 24 25 28 29; **My Greatest Adventure** 2 5; **Our Army at War** 83 86 93 95; **Strange Adventures** 9 10 12 15-17 19-21 24 26-28 30-33 35 37-46 48 49 51 53 54 57 58 63 64 69 73 80 83 92 104 111; **Superman** 1-12 14 15 17-27 30 32 33 37 38 46 47 50-53 55 56 60-63 67 71 75; **Tales of the Unexpected** 14 15 17; **Wonder Women** 103 104 185 191 198; **World's Finest** 71-74. Marvels: **Gunsmoke Western** 56 78-80; **Journey into Mystery** 51 54 55; **Rawhide Kid** (Kirby) 17 21 22; **Strange Tales** 67 69; **Strange Worlds** 4; **Two-Gun Kid** 52-54. Independents: **Adventures of the Fly** (Archie) 3 8; **Alarming Tales** (Harvey) 1 3-5; **Avenger** (ME) 3 4; **Doctor Solar** (GK) 26 29 31; **Fighting American** (Prize) 1-3 5-7; **Magnus** (GK) 27; **Tales of the Mysterious Traveler** 2-7 9 10 12 13; **Thunder-Bunny** (WaRP) 1; **Tor** (St John) 2 5. Please write with prices and grades to: D. Skinn, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fanzine and small press titles must not be offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, samples should be sent with advertising copy.

The Black Panther: And War Machine Makes Three. Prose stories featuring the new Panther and El Tigre. 44 pages, colour cover. £3.00 including postage. **The Incredible Hulk: Dominus Rex.** Two prose stories set in the Seventies featuring the Hulk. 42 pages. £3.00 including postage. Please order from: Steve Nottingham, 37 Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 1RG.

Writers and artists wanted for **Meanwhile...** a high quality, quarterly, UK-based anthology title that now has National Lottery funding. Please write to Soaring Penguin, 2 Hambledon Road, London SW18 5UB for submission guidelines.

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Talented artist available for work on any small press or money making comic projects. Send sample scripts, character designs, etc and I will put together some sketches, and send you some samples. You've got nothing to lose and a whole lot to gain. Contact: B. Alcan, 21 Dalesway, Kirkella, Hull, East Yorkshire HU10 7NE. Telephone: 0148 265 8061 (weekends).

Thanks to all who wrote with kind comments in regard to **Strange Aeons** 1. Issue 2 is now available, featuring an adaptation of Lovecraft's *The Tomb* and reviews including *Die, Monster, Die.* £2 from Calum MacIver, 1 Brookside, Clachamish, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9NY. (£3.50 for 1 and 2.)

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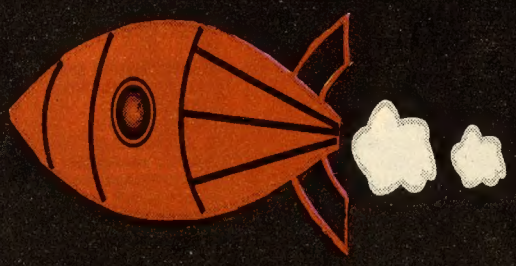

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EVENTS GUIDE

An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised in this issue of ***Comics International****. It includes a bracketed number after each entry noting the page number where the advertisement with the event's full details appears.*

JANUARY

17/1 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Church Centre, Carrs Lane. ..... (p 75)
18/1 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p 19)
18/1 **LONDON:** Comic, Card & Related Mart, TUC Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London ..... (p 83)
24/1 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tibb Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p 75)
25/1 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p 75)
31/1 **GLASGOW:** Comic, Sci-Fi & Film Fair, The Mitchell Theatre, Granville Street ..... (p 21)
31/1 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p 75)
31/1 **SWINDON:** Comic, Card & Sci-Fi Mart, Oasis Leisure Centre, North Star Avenue, Swindon ..... (p 15)

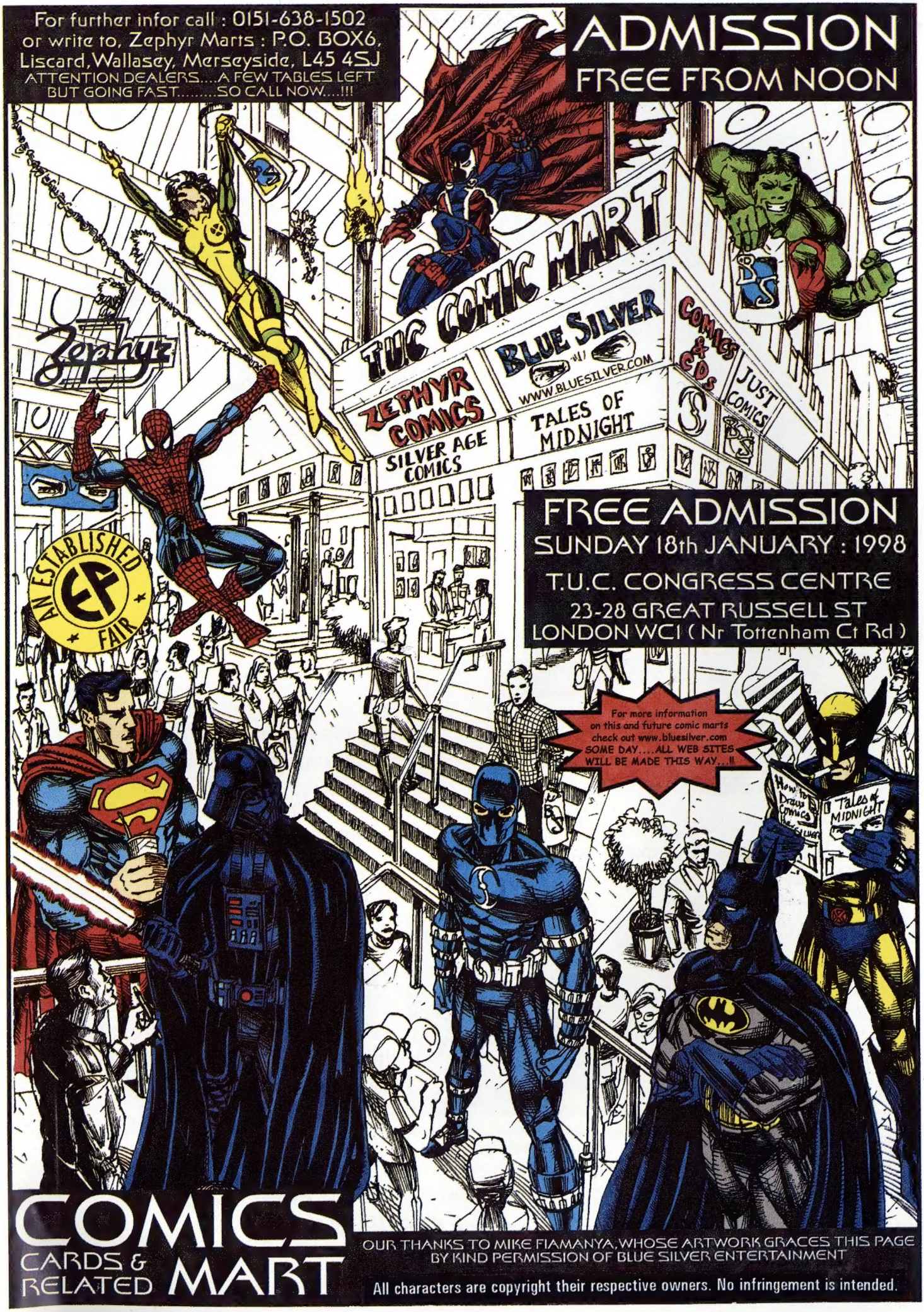
FEBRUARY

1/2 **LONDON:** The National Comicbook Marketplace & Card Mart, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London ..... (p 82)
7/2 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic, Card & SF Mart with guest Mychailo Kazybrid, St Annes Community Centre, Alcester Street ..... (p 81)
7/2 **GLOUCESTER:** Comic, Card & Sci-Fi Mart, Gloucester Leisure Centre, Bruton Way, Gloucester ..... (p 15)
7/2 **LONDON:** Comic, Sci-Fi & Film Fair, Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London ..... (p 21)
7/2 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p 75)
8/2 **BASILDON:** SF, Film & Card Fair with guest Michael Sheard, Basildon Sports Centre, Nethermayne, Basildon, Essex ..... (p 33)
8/2 **HULL:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Comfort Friendly Inn, Anlaby Road ..... (p 75)
14/2 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic, Card & Related Mart , Bluecoat Chambers ..... (p 81)
14/2 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield ..... (p 75)
15/2 **CARDIFF:** Comic, Card & SF Mart with guests: Mike Collins and David A. Roach,The Angel Hotel, Westgate Street ..... (p 15)
21/2 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds. ..... (p 75)
28/2 **GLASGOW:** Comic & Card Mart, Hamish Wood Building, Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow ..... (p 31)
28/2 **SWANSEA:** Comic, Card & Sci-Fi Mart, The Dolphin Hotel, Whitewalls, City Centre, Swansea ..... (p 15)

MARCH

1/3 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p 43)
7/3 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Church Centre Carrs Lane. ..... (p 75)
8/3 **BRISTOL:** Comic, Card & SF Mart w/guest Mark Buckingham, Jurys Hotel, Prince St (p 15)
8/3 **PETERBOROUGH:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Great Northern Hotel, Station Approach, Peterborough ..... (p 75)
14/3 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tibb Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p 75)
15/3 **CHESHUNT:** Comic, Sci-Fi & Film Fair, Grundy Park Leisure Centre, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Herts ..... (p 21)
15/3 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p 75)
15/3 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p 19)
21/3 **BIRMINGHAM:** 2-day Memorabilia '98 with guests, The NEC ..... (p 65)
21/3 **MANCHESTER:** 2-day UKCAC '98 with guests, The Reynold Building, Umist, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p 53)
21/3 **MANCHESTER:** The National Comics Awards, The Western Theatre, Umist, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p 55)
28/3 **GLASGOW:** Comic, Sci-Fi & Film Fair, The Mitchell Theatre, Granville Street ..... (p 21)
28/3 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p 75)
29/3 **BASILDON:** SF, Film & Card Fair with guest Peter Mayhew, Basildon Sports Centre, Nethermayne, Basildon, Essex ..... (p 33)
29/3 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart & Card Show, The YMCA, Granby Street ..... (p 75)
29/3 **WEYMOUTH:** Comic, Card & SF Mart, Rembrandt Hotel, Dorchester Road ..... (p 15)

Please note: the above listing of UK comics and card-related events is free to ***Comics International*** *display advertisers only and independent bookings cannot be accepted.*



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